

F1-009

DISCOVER THE FLYWAY
A PROGRAM OF THE YOLO BASIN FOUNDATION INC.

**Response to the 1997 Category III
Request for Proposals
of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program**

July 28, 1997

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

a. Project Title: *Discover the Flyway*

Applicant: Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.,
P.O. Box 943, Davis, CA, 95617,
Phone: (916)756-7248, Fax: (916)758-1673,
e-mail: robin@dcn.davis.ca.us

b. Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives
Compatibility with CALFED Objectives

The creation of the **Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area** (hereafter "Wildlife Area") in the heart of the Pacific Flyway and the center of the CALFED Project Area is an outstanding example of precisely the sort of long-term habitat restoration activity that CALFED seeks to achieve. And it has already been accomplished. The **Yolo Basin Foundation** (the Foundation) has received widespread recognition as the key player in building the constituency and sustaining the commitment to see the Wildlife Area to completion. It can be the catalyst for comparable CALFED achievements in the rest of the Delta.

The **Discover the Flyway Program** (the Program) is a continuation and broadening of the Foundation's constituency building activities to support restoration and long-term management of significant biological resources in the Yolo Basin area. **CALFED is asked in this Proposal to expand the Program.** It is what CALFED must accomplish if it is to see its preferred approach of adaptive management succeed: the development of sustained public understanding and support for appropriate environmental restoration and management activities.

The **Program** creates an informative set of programs making the Wildlife Area accessible and understandable to the general public. Located within easy reach of the Bay Area and within 15 minutes of downtown Sacramento, the Wildlife Area represents an unparalleled educational opportunity to expose large numbers of people to the beauties and importance of restored and well-managed wetlands and migratory waterfowl habitat. The Program will use the Wildlife Area as an outdoor classroom to bring thousands of school children, their teachers and other stakeholders to appreciate the beauty, utility and importance of ecosystem restoration in the Yolo Basin -- and by extension the entire Bay-Delta wetlands complex-- through focused field trips led by trained interpreters and volunteers.

The **Program** will accomplish this by sponsoring teacher training workshops, coordinating class and stakeholder field trips, and developing and training a cadre of volunteers to assist with field trips and other program tasks. It has been the experience of the Foundation that guided direct exposure is the strongest way to build a respect for and love of the values that support habitat restoration and the environment. CALFED's long-term success depends on developing these attitudes and constituencies.

c. Approach/Tasks/Schedule

In each program year a new phase is added:

Program year 1997/98: Phase 1a: Recruit teachers for workshops, recruit and train volunteers, assemble and develop educational materials, schedule field trips.

Program year 1998/99 (first year of CALFED funding): Phase 1a completed and continuing (see above) Phase 1b: add stakeholder field trips: hire interpreter, recruit and train volunteer Guides, develop group contacts, schedule stakeholder trips and presentations.

Program year 1999/2000 (second year of CALFED funding): Phase 1 completed and continuing; Phase 2: expand program to include junior high and high school students, and youth organizations; develop educational materials/activities for upper grades, expand trips scheduled for the general public.

d. Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED

The newly established Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area offers a unique opportunity to promote ecosystem restoration as identified in the CALFED Implementation Strategy. In effect the Wildlife Area serves as a living laboratory/classroom to enable the many stakeholders involved in the CALFED implementation to observe, monitor and experience the reality of restoration in the Yolo Basin. The Yolo Bypass contains six priority habitats, seven of the priority species and shows examples of eleven of the stressors affecting priority species and habitats. Please refer to Attachment 2 for Habitat Type Map.

The Wildlife Area is one of the few publicly accessible places where ecosystem restoration and habitat management can be observed. Education is an important part of building a constituency and informing the stakeholders about ecosystem restoration. The Program targets students, teachers, parents and the public. Through the Program, they have guided access to a Wildlife Area illustrating an important priority established by CALFED: ecosystem restoration. By seeing for themselves the public will be better able to make informed decisions in the future regarding funding and management issues.

e. Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts

Program Year 1998/99: CALFED: \$23,381 Yolo Basin Foundation: \$23,381
Program Year 1999/00: CALFED: \$38,092 Yolo Basin Foundation: \$25,394

f. Applicant Qualifications

The Foundation was formed in 1990 as a community based organization to assist in the establishment of the Wildlife Area. It is a non-profit public benefit corporation dedicated to educating and inspiring people about wetlands and wildlife of the Central Valley. The 15 member board of directors represents a diverse group of interests, from agriculture and waterfowl conservation to local government and the business community. (Attachment 3) It is universally credited with being the driving force behind the successful Yolo Basin partnership. The Foundation is successful because it has used its limited resources to encourage cooperation among a wide variety of government agencies and private stakeholders. The result of the Foundation's efforts is the creation of a public wildlife area, with over \$12 million of state and federal funding.

The Foundation continues as the communication link between the many people and organizations involved in creating and managing the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Educational programs underway include: sponsoring *California Duck Days* - a three day waterfowl and wetlands festival in the heart of the Pacific Flyway; publishing the *Yolo Flyway*; bringing wetlands education into the schools with our *Wild About Wetlands* curriculum kits; and, introducing people to the natural places in the community through our field trips. Currently we are recruiting teachers to participate in our *Discover the Flyway* workshops to prepare them for class field trips throughout the year. This activity is managed, coordinated, and produced by a part time staff (executive director, program coordinator, database administrator) and a core of dedicated volunteers, in the best grass-roots tradition.

g. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

Quarterly reports on program activities, participation (geographic & quantity), and expenses;
Annual report including analysis of written evaluations by staff, volunteers, and participants;

h. Local Support/Coordination with other Programs

The Discover the Flyway program is a partnership with California State Department of Fish and Game. Current year funders include: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Teichert Foundation, Lang Foundation, and friends of Yolo Basin Foundation. Cooperators are listed on page 4. They provide material resources and partner with the Foundation to achieve shared objectives.

TITLE PAGE

a. Project Title: *Discover the Flyway*

b. Applicant: Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.,
P.O. Box 943, Davis, CA, 95617,
Phone: (916)756-7248, Fax: (916)758-1673,
e-mail: robin@dcn.davis.ca.us

c. Type of Organization: Non-profit public benefit corporation, Tax Status: 501(c)3

d. Tax Identification number: Federal: 68-0230311,
California Corporation #C1668657

e. Contact persons:

Robin Kulakow, Executive Director,
Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 943, Davis, CA, 95617,
Phone: (916)756-7248, Fax: (916)758-1673,
e-mail: robin@dcn.davis.ca.us

Paul Simmons, Chairman of the Board,
Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.
c/o DeCuir and Somach
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 1900
Sacramento, CA 95814-4407
Phone: (916)446-7979, Fax: (916)446-8199

Manny Carbahal, Chief Financial Officer
Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.
c/o Carbahal & Company
1107 Kennedy Place, Suite 5
Davis, CA 95616
Phone: (916) 758-8111, Fax: (916)758-1425

f. Participants/Collaborators in Implementation:

Partner: California State Department of Fish and Game (Memorandum of Understanding signed 5/97),

Cooperators: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento and San Francisco Bay Model, California Waterfowl Association, Ducks Unlimited, University of California, Davis, Putah-Cache Creek Bioregion Project and Regional Education Alliance, Yolo Audubon Society, and Davis Community Network

Current year funders: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Teichert Foundation, Lang Foundation, friends of Yolo Basin Foundation

g. RFP Project Group Type: Group 3 (Other Services)

Project Description

a. Project Description and Approach

Discover the Flyway begins in August, 1997 when "Reading, Writing, and Waterfowl" teacher workshops will instruct forty elementary school teachers about wetlands, the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (Wildlife Area), and how to best use the area as an outdoor classroom. The teachers will be supplied with activities that relate directly to the Wildlife Area, and they will have access to pre- and post-field trip activities so that the wetlands can be part of their curriculum during a substantial portion of the school year. We estimate that these initial forty teachers will be responsible for bringing over 800 elementary school children to the Wildlife Area in its very first year of existence.

This two year proposal to CALFED will fund an expansion of the *Discover the Flyway* program. The first CALFED grant year of the *Discover the Flyway* program will support both elementary school children visiting the Wildlife Area and field trips for adults from stakeholder groups. During this year (1998-99) the program will recruit and train a special group of volunteer Guides who will lead field trips designed to address stakeholder interests. An Interpreter will join the staff of Yolo Basin Foundation in order to train the Guides and lead field trips and information sessions about the wetland restoration process. This program will provide quality field trips for stakeholder groups such as local, state and federal elected officials and other decision makers, land owners, farmers, business leaders, conservation groups, and land and wildlife management agencies. Each of these visitors will come with a unique concern or point of view, based on their particular interest. The staff and volunteer guides will be capable of addressing stakeholder questions - be they economic, ecological, or educational in nature. The grant will also be used to develop educational materials oriented toward the ecosystem restoration goals identified by CALFED.

The second year of the CALFED grant (1999) will build on the previous year's success and add two youth components. As in the first year, the *Discover the Flyway* program will include teacher workshops and elementary school field trips to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, volunteer recruitment and Guide training for stakeholder constituency-building field trips. In addition, the program will add Junior High, High School and youth organizations to the stakeholders the Yolo Basin Foundation will serve. In this way the program will easily triple the number of students from throughout the region visiting the Wildlife Area on field trips and being exposed to information about the value of ecosystem restoration in the Yolo Bypass, and the multiple benefits it provides.

It is envisioned that the third year (2000) will be a growth year in each of the three phases described above. We estimate that by 1999 over 2,000 school children will visit the Yolo Basin on field trips annually. Many of these trips may include stops at other wildlife habitat projects in the Yolo Basin as these are completed, such as the City of Davis' wastewater treatment wetland project. Finally, the constituency building program will grow throughout the Sacramento region until the whole range of stakeholder groups has been introduced to ecosystem restoration, and the Yolo Basin is a common interest among local, state, and federal decision makers. We will apply for CALFED support for this phase once the previous phases have been evaluated as to effectiveness and cost.

b. Location and/or geographic boundaries of project

Location: Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, Yolo County, Yolo Basin, terminus of Putah-Cache Creek Watershed. Refer to Attachment 1, Regional Map.

The Wildlife Area is in the Pacific Flyway where thousands of migratory waterfowl gather every winter. It is located in the Yolo Bypass where I-80, California's busiest east-west highway, intersects the Pacific Flyway and is within sight of the State Capital's skyline. Encompassing 3700 acres newly restored from laser-leveled agriculture, the Wildlife Area is the largest wetland restoration project outside of the Florida Everglades. It is located entirely within the Yolo Bypass and is bordered by

agriculture on three sides. To the east is a busy industrial area in West Sacramento. Many well established duck clubs are located to the south. The Wildlife Area is part of the Delta ecosystem. There is a tidal influence along the east border (the east side levee toe drain) of the area. Through considerable effort and a high degree of cooperation with state and federal agencies, the project has been designed to preserve the flood control function of the Yolo Bypass.

c. Expected Benefits

The Wildlife Area offers a unique opportunity to promote ecosystem restoration as identified in the CALFED Implementation Strategy. In effect the Wildlife Area serves as a living laboratory or demonstration project to observe, monitor, and educate the public and the many stakeholders involved in CALFED implementation. As referenced below the Yolo Bypass contains six priority habitats, seven of the priority species and shows examples of eleven of the stressors affecting priority species and habitats. See Attachment 2 for a Habitat Type Map.

The Wildlife Area is a mosaic of habitats. It is located at the Putah Creek Sinks and surrounds the channelized connection of Putah Creek to the Bypass' east side toe drain and eventually the Delta. Initial construction of the Wildlife Area will be completed by October 1997 when the ponds will be flooded and the area opened to the public. The plan calls for approximately 2300 acres of seasonal wetlands, 900 acres of grassland/upland, 100 acres of riparian woodland and 200 acres of permanent wetlands. A portion of the grassland component has been seeded with native perennial grasses and more will be done in Fall 1997. Eight acres of riparian woodland was planted in 1995 and is thriving. The remaining woodland will be planted within a year.

The Wildlife Area encompasses or is located adjacent to the following **Priority Habitats**: Tidal perennial aquatic habitat (freshwater), Seasonal wetland, Instream aquatic habitat, Shaded riverine aquatic habitat, North Delta agricultural wetlands and perennial grasslands.

Since the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is located in the heart of the Yolo Bypass the following **Priority Species** are present at some time in the year: Winter run Chinook salmon, spring run Chinook salmon, splittail, Delta smelt, steelhead trout, green sturgeon, and migratory birds (waterfowl and neotropical migrants) **reference**: Project Modification Report and Environmental Assessment/Initial Study, Yolo Basin Wetlands. In addition, Putah Creek has the finest surviving assemblage of native fish of any Central Valley Stream.

Education about the conversion of the Wildlife Area from laser leveled agricultural fields to a wetland ecosystem will illustrate the following **stressors affecting priority species and habitats and methods of addressing them**:

- Alteration of Flows and Other Effects of Water Management, Hydrograph Alterations, Migration Barriers and Straying
- Floodplain and Marshplain Changes, Physical Isolation of Floodplain or Marshplain
- Channel Form Changes, alteration of Channel Form, Prevention of Channel Meander, Isolation or Elimination of Side Channels and Tributaries, Loss of Existing Riparian Zone or Lack of Regeneration Potential.
- Water quality, Increased Contaminants, Increased Nutrient or Carbon Input
- Water Temperature, high water temperatures
- Undesirable Species Interactions, Introduction of new exotic species, Elevated Predation and Competition Losses, Competition from Introduced plants
- Adverse Fish and Wildlife Harvest Impacts
- Population Management
- Land Use, grazing, gravel mining, urbanization
- Human Disturbance
- Wildfire

Primary benefits:

Benefits to CALFED mission and implementation of ecosystem restoration goals:

The direct benefit to CALFED is constituency building. The *Discover the Flyway* program provides education through guided access and on the ground observation of ecosystem restoration for students, educators, stakeholders and the larger public. Landowners, politicians, agency personnel, and other decision makers will have access to a visible demonstration of successful ecosystem restoration that is the mission of CALFED. Stakeholders and the public will see first-hand an example of the possibilities for combining habitat values with functional water project uses, as well as compatibility with agriculture. Education makes for informed decisions and support for the long range goals of the CALFED process.

Location: Prime location for maximum educational benefit

The Wildlife Area is located along one of the busiest interstate highways in the country and in view of the State's capital. Millions of travelers travel I-80 on their way to Sacramento and Lake Tahoe. Among those traveling along the interstate are many of the stakeholders with an interest in the Yolo Basin. Many decision makers travel this route daily or weekly making this wildlife area very visible and accessible to another important group of stakeholders. The location of the Wildlife Area, in comparison with more remote state and federal wildlife areas, offers the opportunity for thousands of school children to visit a wildlife area in their community. It is easily accessible to students in Yolo, Sacramento, and Solano Counties. Typical driving distances range from one-quarter to one-half hour driving time from many schools, cutting transportation costs in a time of limited resources for field trips. This complex of diverse land uses makes the Wildlife Area a prime location for introducing students and other stakeholders to the concept that wetlands and wildlife can co-exist with modern life.

Quantity:

According to a recent economic analysis done for the Foundation by *Economics Resource Associates*, there are 40,000 students in the third, fourth, and fifth grades within a 30-mile radius of the Wildlife Area. Assuming that the educational value of the Wildlife Area justifies bringing a minimum of one-half of these students there annually, visitation could reach as high as 20,000 students per year. Now is the time to start building a program that will eventually accommodate this terrific opportunity.

Outreach:

CALFED would have the benefit of the Yolo Basin Foundation's existing successful outreach programs. These programs would spread the word about the CALFED ecosystem restoration mission and its implementation to a wide ranging constituency already interested in the Yolo Basin. The Foundation publishes a widely read newsletter, *The Yolo Flyway*, three to four times per year. Our activities are covered in the local and regional press. We are in the process of creating a Yolo Basin website as a *sponsored project* of the Davis Community Network. When up and working sometime this year, our website will have connections to the wetlands and restoration community locally, regionally, and internationally. The Yolo Basin Foundation also has an international presence. Several years ago the Foundation was selected by Wetlands Link International, a project of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust out of Slimbridge, England, as their West Coast of North America link. Our activities are periodically reported on in the Wetlands Link International newsletter and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust magazine. These publications have an international readership in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Australia, and Africa.

d. Background and Biological/technical justification

Background:

Next time you are driving on Interstate 80 east toward the Yolo Causeway, take special note of the large sign identifying the Yolo Basin Wetlands. That sign with the logos of the many Yolo Basin partners marks the location of one of the nation's most exciting developments in nature conservation and public education. The Yolo Basin Wetlands, officially known as the Yolo Bypass State Wildlife Area, is the largest public/private restoration project in the West. 3,700 acres of farmland in the Yolo Bypass floodway are under conversion to wetlands and other habitats.

The Foundation was founded in 1990 as a community based organization to assist in the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The Foundation is a non profit public benefit corporation dedicated to educating and inspiring people about wetlands and wildlife of the Central Valley. The 15 member board of directors represents a diverse group of interests, from agriculture and waterfowl conservation to local government and the business community. (reference Attachment 3) It is universally credited with being the driving force behind the successful Yolo Basin partnership. The Foundation is successful because it has used its limited resources to encourage cooperation among a wide variety of government agencies and private stakeholders. The result of the Foundation's efforts is the creation of a public wildlife area, with over \$12 million of state and federal funding.

The Foundation's principal goal is environmental education in the context of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The Foundation will be as creative and effective in bringing hunters, environmentalists, bird watchers, and school children together in an appreciation of the natural world, as it has been in bringing together landowners and governmental agencies to create the Wildlife Area.

The secret to the Foundation's success is the corps of dedicated and skilled volunteers it has assembled. Among the volunteers are biologists, farmers, engineers, hunters, landowners, business people and educators. Now that the restoration of the Wildlife Area is underway, the Foundation is ready to move forward with its educational mission.

Yolo Basin Foundation continues as the communication link between the many people and organizations involved in creating and managing the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Educational programs underway include: sponsoring *California Duck Days* - a three day waterfowl and wetlands festival in the heart of the Pacific Flyway; publishing the *Yolo Flyway*; bringing wetlands education into the schools with our *Wild About Wetlands* kits; and, introducing people to the natural places in the community through our field trips. Currently we are recruiting teachers to participate in our *Discover the Flyway* workshops to prepare them for class field trips throughout the year. We are also recruiting volunteers to assist with the program.

The Foundation is also coordinating a multi-agency project to create a *demonstration wetland* at the new State Fish and Game headquarters for the Wildlife Area. This 3-acre site will contain examples of seasonal and permanent wetlands, grasslands, and riparian woodland. Interpretive panels and trails are part of the plan as well. Participants in the project include State Fish and Game, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Waterfowl Association, Ducks Unlimited, UC Davis, Larry Walker Associates and Hedgerow Farms. Participants are contributing either funds or in-kind services. This demonstration habitat will become an integral of the *Discover the Flyway* program. The long term goals of the Foundation include the development of an interpretive center near the Wildlife Area. To this end, the Foundation has completed an economic feasibility study with the support of the Packard Foundation. The Foundation hopes that such a center will inform the public about waterfowl, wetlands, and water resources issues. (refer to Attachment 9)

Justification:

The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is one of the few publicly accessible wildlife areas where ecosystem restoration and habitat management can be observed. Currently the *Discover the Flyway* program targets students, teachers, and parents. As members of the largest group of stakeholders, the public, they will have access to a Wildlife Area illustrating an important priority established by CALFED, namely ecosystem restoration. Education is an important part of promoting a constituency and informing the stakeholders about ecosystem restoration. By seeing for themselves the public will be better able to make informed decisions in the future regarding funding and management issues.

The expanded *Discover the Flyway* program as proposed here would offer additional opportunities for education and constituency building by providing guided field trips on weekends and during the week for different stakeholder groups. To a limited extent this already happens at the Wildlife Area. For six years the Yolo Basin Foundation has been offering guided trips. For the first five years the trips were limited to one public trip per year. In the sixth year, the Foundation teamed up with Yolo Audubon Society to offer monthly trips, September through May. These trips are very popular and from our sign up sheets we have identified many different stakeholder groups including landowners, politicians and their staff, agency personnel, private consultants, scientists, educators, and recreationists. The program would provide more direct benefits to CALFED by hiring a trained interpreter to train volunteers and develop more restoration-oriented outreach materials and include material regarding the function of the Yolo Bypass as a water conveyance facility. It will also emphasize a distinguishing feature of the Wildlife Area: namely its compatibility with flood control and agricultural uses in the Bypass.

Current Status of the Discover the Flyway program:

The program was officially launched in March 1997 with the hiring of our first program coordinator. To date two teacher workshops are scheduled for August. Our target is 40 teachers and as of this writing we are nearly there. Primary grade teachers and students are being targeted in this first year of the program. Schools throughout the region have been targeted in the first year. The region is defined as Yolo, Sacramento, and Solano Counties. Over 1200 Flyers announcing the workshops were sent to all Yolo County teachers and most teachers in the Sacramento Unified School District. A special mailing was done targeting science teachers throughout the region. Volunteer recruitment is underway now as well and the training program is being developed. A Wildlife Area handbook is being written and assembled in July 1997.

e. Proposed Scope of Work:

Program themes:

The *Discover the Flyway* program will introduce people of all ages to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and the greater Yolo Basin and Sacramento River watershed. They will have the opportunity to experience, observe and learn about wetlands, waterfowl, wildlife, the Yolo Bypass and the Pacific Flyway's international link with our community. The world of plants, soils, habitat restoration, agriculture, water, history, and partnerships is open to exploration. Best of all, participants will be learning in the outdoors and experiencing wildlife first hand.

The overall theme of the program emphasizes the vital role of wetlands for the Central Valley's diverse birds, fish and other wildlife, and how wetlands are being brought back to life. Sub-themes will include: wetland types and importance; biodiversity of wetland ecosystems; threats to these habitats; management for diverse uses, and stewardship. We stress the importance of partnerships and cooperation to achieve goals that benefit both people and wildlife. The compatibility of wetlands and wildlife management with agriculture and flood control is also emphasized.

Specific program themes for teacher workshops and student trips follow state adopted curriculums, including the California Science Framework and the California Social Studies Framework. Work with individual teachers is emphasized in order to integrate field visits with specific classroom work.

Phases for implementation. In each program year a new phase is added:

Program year 1997/98:

Phase 1a: Recruit teachers for workshops, recruit and train volunteers, assemble and develop educational materials, schedule field trips. (currently underway, no CALFED funding)

Program year 1998/99 (first year of CALFED funding):

Phase 1a: completed and continuing (see above)

Phase 1b: add stakeholder field trips: hire interpreter, recruit and train special volunteer Guides, develop group contacts, schedule stakeholder trips and presentations

Program year 1999/2000 (second year of CALFED funding):

Phase 1a: completed and continuing (see above)

Phase 1b: completed and continuing (see above)

Phase 2: expand program to include junior high and high school students, and youth organizations; develop educational materials/activities for upper grades, expand trips scheduled for the general public.

Program year 2000/01 (future CALFED funding proposal)

Phase 1a, 1b and 2: completed and continuing (see above)

Phase 3: add thirty percent more attendance to all aspects of the program

Reports: We will provide quarterly reports documenting activities during the previous quarter. The numbers of people participating will be documented in these reports, along with qualitative evaluation based on participant and volunteer interviews. Financial accounting for program expenses will also be provided. An annual summary and evaluation of the program will also be prepared.

f. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

Program evaluation and monitoring will be an important component of the program. YBF will work with the Public Service Research Program at UC Davis to develop an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism. This program has an ongoing grant from the *National Science Foundation* to evaluate science education programs in the region. Teachers and volunteers and trip participants will periodically be asked to fill out evaluation forms. Numbers of participants and geographical location will be tracked. Categories of stakeholders participating in the program will also be tracked. We have assembled a teacher advisory committee that will be asked to periodically evaluate the program.

g. Implementability

Since the *Discover the Flyway* program is already in its first year, the skill and organizational structure already exists to expand the program.

In 1997 the Yolo Basin Foundation successfully negotiated and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with State Department of Fish and Game formally establishing the educational partnership between the Foundation and the Department. The MOU documents the Foundation's role in providing educational programs for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. It gives the Foundation access to the Wildlife Area headquarters building for program activities such as training. An office in the building is also provided for. The MOU gives the Foundation access to the Wildlife Area for program activities. All Foundation activities related to the Wildlife Area are subject to approval by the Wildlife Area manager and the manager of interpretive services.

IV. Costs and Schedule to Implement Proposed Project

a. Budget Costs

Please refer to Attachment 4, Table 1 for a budgeted cost breakdown.

Current year funders for the *Discover the Flyway* program are: Teichert Foundation, Lang Foundation, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and friends of the Yolo Basin Foundation. These funders do not require allocation of funds to specific items. Thus labor, direct, and direct costs can be paid from funds provided by any of the above sources. Significant inkind contributions are being made by the State Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, from both the Sacramento District and the San Francisco Bay Model. Both agencies are providing training and educational materials. Fish and Game also provides office, storage and meeting space, field equipment (scopes and binoculars) as well as use of office equipment. They will manage a designated portion of the Wildlife Area for Wildlife viewing including serviceable roads and parking lots, trails, and portable toilets. Other inkind services will be made available by California Waterfowl Association, Ducks Unlimited, and the UC Davis Bioregion Project.

The Yolo Basin Foundation has a diverse funding base that makes a program such as this possible. There is a stable membership base of hundreds of supporters (friends). Significant funds also come from the annual *Bucks for Ducks* fund raiser held every fall and now in its seventh year. This year we initiated the *Yolo Flyway Club* for donors of \$1,000 or more. We produce and sell Western Waterfowl Identification cards to stores and refuges all over the U.S. and some in Canada. This year we published and began selling Discovering Yolo County Wildlife by John Kemper. We submit several grant proposals to private foundations and corporations with giving programs each year.

It is anticipated that a portion of the current year funders will continue their support in following years, although specific donors and amounts cannot be predicted with certainty. Seeking operational funding to support an ongoing program is a challenging and never ending task.

CALFED funding gives the Yolo Basin Foundation the funding certainty and stability to expand the program into Phases 2, 3, and 4. The Foundation is requesting that CALFED fund fifty percent of the *Discover the Flyway* program, due to the significant benefits to successful implementation of the CALFED goals. CALFED funds will be matched by Yolo Basin Foundation funds 50/50 in the first year and 60/40 in the second year as more benefits are realized.

b. Schedule milestones:

Please refer to Attachment 5, Table 2

c. Third Party Impacts

Due to the positive educational benefits of the *Discover the Flyway* program no negative third party impacts are anticipated.

V. Applicant Qualifications

A Proven Record of Success

The Yolo Basin Foundation has a proven record of success. Our efforts have been recognized in many ways. In August 1995 the Foundation was presented with a *National Wetlands Conservation Award for the Private Sector* from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Wildlife Area groundbreaking ceremony. In his remarks at the ceremony, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt lauded our success in creating the largest wetlands restoration project west of the Everglades. Other awards to the Foundation include the *Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management* given by the San Francisco based Management Center. At the State of the Estuary conference in October, 1996, the Foundation was recognized for outstanding implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for the San Francisco Bay Estuary. An editorial from the Sacramento Bee recognized the role of the Foundation in creating the Wildlife Area. The Foundation and the Wildlife Area have also been featured in the Davis Enterprise, Woodland Democrat, West Sacramento Press, U.S. Water News and Wetland Link International News. (refer to Attachment 8)

The Yolo Basin Foundation is well suited to initiating and managing an outreach program that stresses partnerships. The Program itself is a partnership with the California Department of Fish and Game, which owns and manages the Wildlife Area. The Foundation also works closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District and the San Francisco Bay Model; California Waterfowl Association; Ducks Unlimited; the University of California at Davis; Putah-Cache Creek Bioregion Project and the university-sponsored Regional Education Alliance, Putah Creek Council, Cache Creek Conservancy, Yolo County Resource Conservation District and Yolo Audubon Society. As the sponsor of *California Duck Days*, one of the largest on-going annual wildlife festivals in the United States, the Foundation participates in the growing ecotourism movement.

The Foundation's Board of Directors represents a cross section of the stakeholder groups with an interest in the Bypass, a further qualification for directing the proposed constituency building program. The Board has ties throughout the Yolo Basin and the greater Putah-Cache Creek Watershed. Various Foundation board members also serve as board members of other watershed groups with an interest in the Bypass including Putah Creek Council, Cache Creek Conservancy, and the Yolo County Resource Conservation District. The variety of interests supporting the Foundation and its activities is demonstrated by the list of sponsors for its annual fundraiser. The list can be found in Attachment 10, *The Yolo Flyway*, page 4.

Project Administration

Robin Kulakow, Executive Director of the Foundation will serve as the project manager. Ms. Kulakow was a founding member of the Yolo Basin Working Group and the Yolo Basin Foundation. She has served as Executive Director of the Yolo Basin Foundation since January, 1991. Ms. Kulakow has a bachelors degree in Soil Science from UC Berkeley and a Master of Administration degree from UC Davis. She worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a district soil scientist and has budgetary and legislative experience with the State Department of Finance, State Board of Equalization, and the California Conservation Corps. Ms. Kulakow has been the recipient of the California Department of Fish and Game Director's Achievement Award and the City of Davis' first Environmental Recognition Award for her efforts leading to the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. She is a founding board member of the Putah Creek Council and the Cache Creek Conservancy. In the past year she has made presentations to the State of the Estuary Conference, the SERCAL (Society for Ecological Restoration, California Chapter) annual conference, and at the National Watchable Wildlife Convention.

Liz Merry serves as Program Coordinator and will have day to day responsibility for developing and managing the *Discover the Flyway* program. Ms. Merry is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles and is currently enrolled in the Masters of Business Administration program at California State University, Sacramento. She is currently employed by the Foundation as Program Coordinator for the *Discover the Flyway* program and *California Duck Days*. Ms. Merry has extensive experience as a volunteer coordinator beginning with CalPIRG in 1997. She coordinated volunteers for the Sierra Club's Clean Coastal Waters Task Force and the Wetlands Preservation '90 festival. She has served as the State Coastal Chair in the Sierra Club and was elected Chair of the conservation committee for the Angeles Chapter where she coordinated activities among the 20 different chapter conservation committees. In 1995 Ms. Merry was hired as the staff coordinator for *California Duck Days*. Under her direction this wetlands festival has grown in both scope and participation to rank among the largest in the country.

The collaborating participants in the Discover the Flyway program are:

Partner: California State Department of Fish and Game (Memorandum of Understanding signed 5/97), (use of facilities, equipment, office space, access to Wildlife Area, training, development of educational materials)

Cooperators: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento and San Francisco Bay Model, California Waterfowl Association, Ducks Unlimited, University of California, Davis, Putah-Cache Creek Bioregion Project and Regional Education Alliance, Yolo Audubon Society, and Davis Community Network. These organizations are providing training and educational materials. Davis Community Network is providing for one year free website space, free e-mail accounts, and assistance in developing a website to be used for outreach and volunteer coordination.

Current year funders: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Teichert Foundation, Lang Foundation, friends of Yolo Basin Foundation

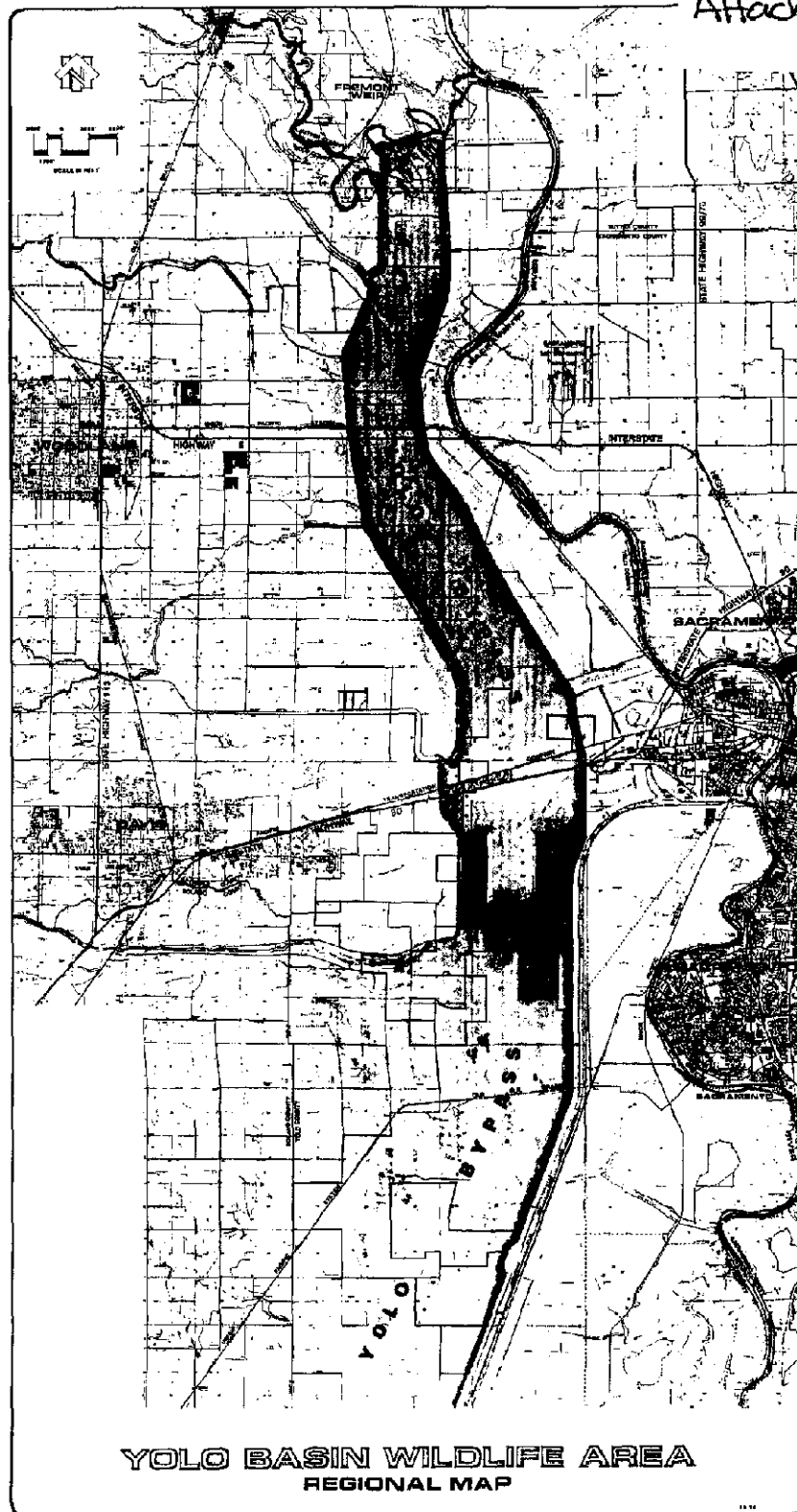
Other Matters

Conflicts of interest : We are not aware of any potential conflicts.

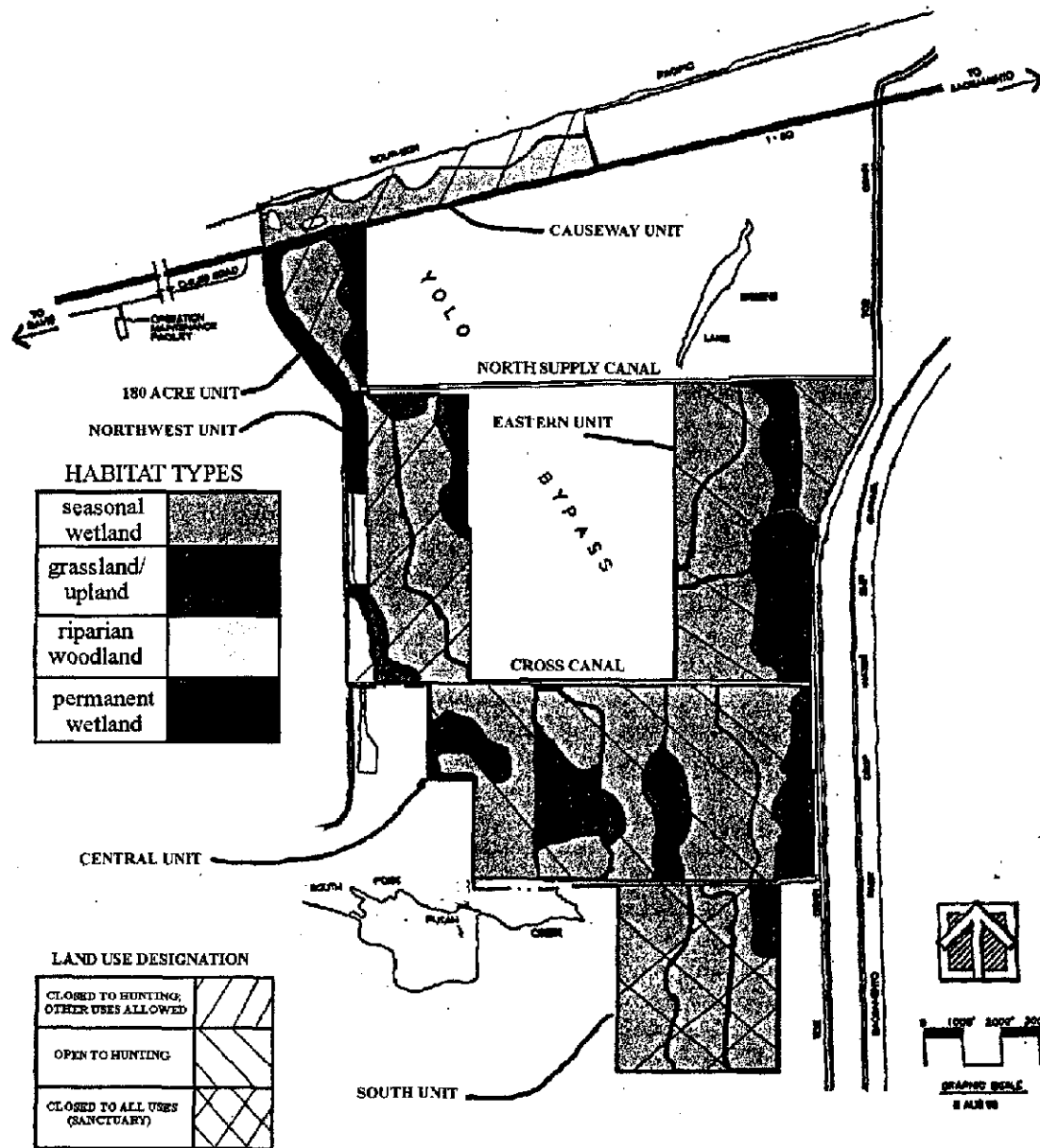
References: Please refer to Attachment 6 for list of references.

VI. Compliance with standard terms and conditions.

See Attachment 7, Nondiscrimination form.



YOLO BYPASS WILDLIFE AREA



Attachment 2

**Yolo Basin Foundation
Board of Directors, July 1997**

The following is a listing of the board of directors with a brief description of their professional affiliations:

John Anderson	University of California, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (retired) Yolo Co. Resource Conservation District, associate director Founding member Calif. Native Grass Association Owner, Hedgerow Farms, Farmer actively involved in native habitat restoration and commercial production of native grass seed for restoration.
Manny Carbahal	<i>Chief Financial Officer, YBF Executive Committee</i> Certified Public Accountant, Carbahal & Co. Yolo County Chamber of Commerce City of Davis Chamber of Commerce
Dennis Kilkenny	Landowner, Yolo Bypass duck club Loan officer, First Northern Bank of Dixon
Robin Kulakow	<i>Secretary, YBF Executive Committee</i> <i>Executive Director</i> Masters of Administration, UC Davis USDA, Forest Service, Soil Scientist Putah Creek Council, treasurer Cache Creek Conservancy board of directors
Betsy Marchand	Yolo County Board of Supervisors (former) American River Watershed Investigation, Executive Committee Yolo-Solano Flood Control & Water Conservation District Governmental Affairs, Families First
Frank MacBride	President, MacBride Realty Co., Sacramento Landowner, Yolo Bypass duck club
Ken Noack Jr.	KVIE Public Television, President, Board of Directors Land Broker, Bishop Hawk, Sacramento
Susan Sanders	Ph.D., Zoology, UC Davis Consulting wildlife biologist (freelance) Putah Creek Council, co-chair Former president, Yolo Audubon Society

Stephen Sheppard *YBF Executive Committee*
Environmental Planner, EDAW (San Francisco)
Ph.D. in Environmental Planning, UC Berkeley
Wildlife artist

Paul Simmons *President, YBF Executive Committee*
Attorney at law, De Cuir and Somach, Sacramento

Meg Stallard Vice President, Woodland School Board
League of Women Voters

Brian Sway *Vice-president, YBF Executive Committee*
Energy Industry consultant

Chris Unkel California Nature Conservancy, Director, California
Wetlands Program
Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, Board of Directors
Former Coordinator California Wildlands Program, Department
of Fish and Game

Lois Wolk Mayor, City of Davis
Council liaison for water and wetlands
Member, Yolo County Water Resources Association

Former Board members:

Ted Beedy Ph.D., Zoology, UC Davis
Consulting wildlife biologist-Jones & Stokes Associates
Author, Discovering Sierra Birds
Former president, Yolo Audubon Society

Steve Chainey Consulting Restoration Ecologist, Jones & Stokes
Associates
Putah Creek Council, Co-Chair
Cache Creek Conservancy Board of Directors

Renee Fitzsimons Public Outreach Coordinator, Stone Lakes National
Wildlife Refuge (former)
Master of Science, Environmental Communication, CSU,
Sacramento
Former chair, Sunrise Recreation & Park District Board

John Ott Principal, Sequoia Associates, Davis (land development)

Attachment 4
Table 1
Cost Breakdown

Cost Breakdown

Discover the Flyway

Expenses

		Year 1 1998/99	Year 2 1999/00 3% COLA
STAFF			
Exec. Director	\$	6,000	\$ 6,180
Program Coord. 80hr/mo	\$	13,200	\$ 13,596
Interpreter 80hr/mo	\$	13,440	\$ 13,843
Admin. Asst. 15 hr/mo	\$	2,520	\$ 2,596
Total Labor	\$	35,160	\$ 36,215

Phase 1a:

teacher workshops(grade 2-6) and school field trips (same as 1997)

Direct Costs:

Operations & materials \$ 7,896 \$ 8,133

Phase 1b: add stakeholder field trips

(recruit and train volunteer Guides, develop stakeholder contacts, make presentations (speakers bureau), give field trips, do follow up with groups.)

Direct Costs:

Operations & materials \$ 6,175 \$ 6,360

Subtotal Project 1

Operations + Labor \$ 49,231 \$ 50,708

Indirect Costs Project 1:

Overhead at

10% \$ 4,923 \$ 5,071

Total Project 1

\$ 54,154 \$ 55,778

YBF Portion 50% \$ 27,077

Calfed Portion 50% \$ 27,077

Attachment 4
Table 1
Cost Breakdown

Cost Breakdown

Discover the Flyway

Expenses

Year 1

Year 2

Phase 2: add grades 7-12, youth organizations, more public trips

Direct Costs:

Operations & materials \$ 7,410

Indirect Costs Project 2:

Overhead at

10%

\$ 741

Total Cost Project 2

\$ 8,151

Project 1+Project 2

Total Cost

\$ 63,929

YBF Portion 40%

\$ 25,572

Calfed Portion 60%

\$ 38,358

Attachment 5, Table 2, Discover the Flyway, Schedule Milestones*, Phases 1-3

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Prog Yr 1997/98												
Phase 1												
Hire coordinator yr 1 only	x											
Plan workshops		x	x	x	x							
Recruit Teachers			x	x	x							
Recruit Volunteers						x						
Teacher Workshops												
Develop educ. materials		x	x	x	x	x				x	x	
Field Trips	x	x	x				x	x	x			x
Prog Yr 1998/99												
Phase 1 same as above												
Phase 2												
Hire interpreter yr 1 only											x	
Train interpreter											x	x
Develop educ. materials	x	x										x
Recruit/train vol guides			x	x	x	x						
Recruit stakeholder groups					x	x	x	x				
Make presentations	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Schedule field trips	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x		x
Program Yr 1999/00												
Phase 1 same as above												
Phase 2 same as above												
Phase 3												
Develop educ materials suited to grades 7-12	x	x	x	x	x							
Recruit teachers			x	x	x							
Hold teacher workshops						x						
Schedule trips							x	x	x	x	x	x

* Planning year goes from Mar 1-Feb 28 in order to prepare for following year programs.

Yolo Basin Foundation
References
July 1997

Elected Officials:

Congressman Vic Fazio
722-B Main
Woodland CA 95695
666-5521

Helen Thomson
Assemblywoman, Eighth District
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
445-8368

Betsy Marchand
Yolo County Board of Supervisors,
retired
926 Craig Place
Davis CA 95616
756-0521

Lois Wolk
Mayor
City of Davis
1209 Colby
Davis CA 95616
756-9655

Mcg Stallard
Vice Chair
Woodland School Board
10 Toyon Drive
Woodland CA 95695
666-0154

Governmental Agencies:

Doug Wheeler
Secretary
Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento CA 95814
654-2753

Dave Paullin
Coordinator
Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture
2233 Watt Ave, Suite 375
Sacramento CA 95825-0509
979-2085

Col. Dorothy K. Klasse
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street
Sacramento CA 95814
557-7490

Ryan Broddrick
Deputy Director
Department of Fish & Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento CA 95814
653-0991

Tanis Toland
Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street
Sacramento CA 95814
557-6717

Craig Stowers
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Manager
Department of Fish & Game
45211 County Road 32B
Davis, CA 95616
757-2461

Non-profit Conservation Organizations:

Keith Rubin
Executive Director
California Waterfowl Association
4630 Northgate Boulevard, Suite 150
Sacramento CA 95834
648-1406

Ron Stromstad
Director of Operations
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
3074 Gold Canal Drive
Rancho Cordova CA 95670-6116
852-2000

Ann Brice
Executive Director
Cache Creek Conservancy
34490 County Road 25
Woodland CA 95695
661-1070

Yolo Basin Foundation
Page 2

University of California:

Joyce Gutstein
Assoc. Director
Public Service Research Program
UC Davis
Davis CA 95616
752-7823

Peter Moyle
Professor
University of California
Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology
Davis CA 95616
752-6355

Education:

Barbara Wells
Principal
Pioneer School
5215 Hamel Drive
Davis CA 95616
757-5480

Private Sector:

Fred Teichert
Executive Director
Teichert Foundation
P.O. Box 15002
Sacramento CA 95851-1002
484-3011, 484-3364

NONDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

COMPANY NAME

The company named above (hereinafter referred to as "prospective contractor") hereby certifies, unless specifically exempted, compliance with Government Code Section 12990 (a-f) and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 5 in matters relating to reporting requirements and the development, implementation and maintenance of a Nondiscrimination Program. Prospective contractor agrees not to unlawfully discriminate, harass or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (cancer), age, marital status, denial of family and medical care leave and denial of pregnancy disability leave.

CERTIFICATION

I, the official named below, hereby swear that I am duly authorized to legally bind the prospective contractor to the above described certification. I am fully aware that this certification, executed on the date and in the county below, is made under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California

OFFICIAL'S NAME

Robin J. Kulakow

DATE EXECUTED

7-15-97

EXECUTED IN THE COUNTY OF

Yolo

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE

Robin A. Kulakow

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S TITLE

Executive Director

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME

Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.

Attachment 8

Newspaper Articles

Sacramento Bee

Davis Enterprise

Woodland Daily Democrat

West Sacramento Press

Wetland Link International News

OPINION

The Sacramento Bee

Locally owned and edited for 133 years

JAMES McCLATCHY, editor, 1857-1883

C.K. McCLATCHY, editor, president, 1883-1936

ELEANOR McCLATCHY, president 1936-1978

WALTER P. JONES, editor, 1936-1974

C.K. McCLATCHY, editor, 1974-1989

GREGORY FAVRE, executive editor

PETER SCHRAG, editorial page editor

FRANK R.J. WHITTAKER, president and general manager

Refuge in a flood channel

The groundbreaking ceremonies this morning for the creation of a \$16 million wildlife refuge in the Yolo Bypass flood channel west of Sacramento represents the culmination of seven years of effort by environmentalists and a wide range of federal, state and local officials. Nearly all agree that much of the credit for finally bringing these disparate interests together belongs to Robin Kulakow, executive director the Yolo Basin Foundation.

The big question for the future is whether this same spirit of cooperation can be preserved once the construction is finished and the birds move in.

The project envisions reconfiguring 3,400 acres of the flood channel with trees, brush and ponds that would provide an important new habitat along the Pacific Flyway. The work won't restore the area to its natural state but aims instead at creating a hybrid environment that would be more hospitable to wildlife yet still not interfere with the use of the bypass for flood protection.

The record of success for artificial wetlands projects of this kind is mixed; people just aren't as experienced yet as Mother Nature at building habitats. But state and federal flood control officials are satisfied they've come up with a design that won't interfere with current operation of the bypass. And state Fish and Game officials are confident they can construct all that additional marsh area in a way that will still keep the resulting mosquito population low enough so that there won't be any threat to public health.

The Corps of Engineers acknowledges, however, that its calculations only apply to the way the bypass is being run now, not to any changes that may be made in the years ahead. One of the options currently under consideration for enhancing flood protection for the Sacramento metropolitan area calls for passing much greater volumes of water into the bypass during extremely rainy periods. That would require major structural changes in the bypass itself. But the Army engineers haven't determined how those changes might conflict with the new habitat area — or if there'd be any conflict at all.

The question is important because much of the success of the habitat depends ultimately upon the good will of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency that has often received low marks as a cooperative partner. The feds signed a formal agreement in 1994 promising not to interfere with the state's initial plan for the habitat. But once endangered species settle there, or if changes have to be made for flood protection, that attitude could change. The Fish and Wildlife biologists made no promises for the future, and state officials argued in 1994 that they had no choice but to make a leap of faith that the wildlife agency would act in good faith as the project evolves.

The proponents of the wildlife refuge have had to overcome a lot of bureaucratic resistance to bring about today's celebration. But their responsibility won't end with the turning of a first spadeful of earth. There are still plenty of questions that won't have answers until the refuge goes into operation.

METRO

STATE

• • Tuesday, August 15, 1995



Bee/Kim D. Johnson

A variety of birds, including egrets, black-crowned night herons and dunlins, gather in the Putah Creek Slings area in the new Yolo Bypass

Wildlife Area. The 3,400-acre, \$16 million, federally funded wetlands restoration is the largest project of its kind under way in the West.

Flocking together for wildlife

Agencies cooperate with little squawking to restore Yolo wetlands

By Walt Wiley
Bee Staff Writer

Robin Kulakow seems a little breathless these days — as if she'd maybe just discovered a new law of physics or perhaps run a 4-minute mile.

In a way, what she has done is in that sort of league.

On Thursday, she will be on the speakers' platform along with such very big shots as Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt to make a few remarks upon the groundbreaking for the largest wetlands restoration project under way in the West.

That is the Yolo Basin Wetlands

Project, a 3,400-acre, \$16 million, federally funded U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project that will create the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, which will be run by the state Department of Fish and Game.

Kulakow, as executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, was the person in the middle who kept each agency on track and the volunteers at work toward the goal of seeing the dream become a reality.

"And now it's going to happen. In a year it's all going to look just like that!" Kulakow crowed the other morning, gesturing toward a couple of acres of tules and open water that were alive with shorebirds.

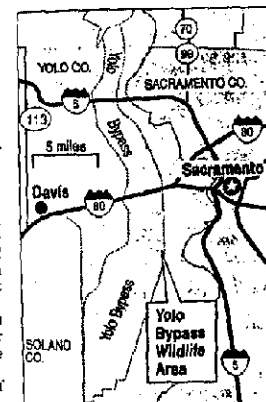
The object of her enthusiasm lay right at the foot of the west levee of the Yolo Bypass, atop which she was idling along in her van on a pre-groundbreaking tour.

The bypass, created as a channel for floodwater escaping the Sacramento Valley toward the Delta and the sea, has for all its existence been kept clear of anything that might impede the water.

Farmers could grow annual crops during dry weather, but come winter the passage of floodwater became the primary use.

Now, however, with the creation of

Please see BYPASS, page B3



Bee graphics

Bypass: Restoration a challenge

Continued from page B1
the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, there are going to be acres of tule-rimmed ponds, little stands of trees, undulations and high and low spots over the expanse of the earth — things that could impede the water.

"That's what's made this special. We've actually been able to do something new," said Kulakow as she stopped to survey some pink and yellow flags marking where trees (pink) and underbrush (yellow) are being planted in the new riparian woodland.

"Come fall, when the ducks, geese and other migrating waterfowl arrive, the area should be a hotbed of feathered activity, she predicted.

"And all right here so close to urban areas," she said, waving her arm to take in the horizon. "You can see the Capitol from here, Mount Diablo, the Sutter Buttes, the Sierra. And school kids from Davis and West Sacramento could ride their bikes out here.

"What a treasure this is going to be," she said, her dark eyes snapping with enthusiasm.

Kulakow, 33, a Bay Area native and former U.S. Forest Service scientist, said the Yolo Basin Foundation goes back to 1988, when it was formed amid concerns over a lack of water in Putah Creek.

Putah Creek forms Lake Berryessa behind Monticello Dam, then flows down out of the hills past Winters and Davis and into an area called the Putah Creek Sinks in the bypass.

"When we got to looking into that, we learned of the historical importance to wildlife — particularly migratory waterfowl — that that part of the bypass had," she said. "It even turned out that the state had studied it as a possible wildlife area."

The problem was that the state Department of Water Resources did not permit obstructions in its flood control structures. And the Yolo Bypass is nothing if it is not a flood control structure.

Another problem was that modifying a flood control structure built by the U.S. Army Corps of



Bee/Kim D. Johnson

Robin Kulakow, executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, was the person responsible for keeping several agencies on track in turning the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area into a reality.

Engineers requires the corps' approval.

Also, the land in the bypass is privately owned. The state owns only the right to send floodwater over it. Land for a wildlife area would have to be purchased.

Yolo County Supervisor Betsy Marchand, in whose district the project lies, recalled that she was skeptical when she heard the first glimmers of plans because she knows how bitter turf battles can get.

"But I was an early convert. I could see the energy and intelligence that was going into this," she said.

Now Marchand is a director of the foundation, and she will be the master of ceremonies at Thursday's groundbreaking.

Gail Burnham, an engineer for the Corps of Engineers, said nothing anywhere in the annals of the corps is remotely similar to the Yolo wetlands project.

"Of course, now it's starting to spawn sons of the Yolo project all over the place. The idea's catching on," said Burnham.

The project is unusual, she said, because it amounts to taking something that had been developed and modifying it so that it is less developed. "That's unique for anybody," she said.

And the restoration poses special challenges, added Paul Hofmann, the state Department of Fish and Game biologist involved in the design and development of the wildlife area.

"We had to be careful to do this

right. We weren't restoring a system to pre-Columbian conditions," he said. Rather, they were creating a system that would do the job today that the old system did in its time.

"There is a difference," he said. "For instance, that old system involved heavy floods every spring. Well, we're just not going to have that today. And there are all the other considerations — the levees, mosquito abatement."

It all has come together now, and while the 3,400-acre wildlife area will be one of the smaller ones in the state's system, its location means that it will be one of the most important, said Hofmann.

He, Marchand, Burnham and others agreed that the new wildlife area would not have come to be without Kulakow and the foundation to pull together all the various public and private interests.

Principal interests, in addition to Fish and Game, the corps and Department of Water Resources, include Ducks Unlimited, the private, nonprofit organization that designs and builds waterfowl habitat, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency in charge of migratory waterfowl.

"And we try to be friends with our neighbors, let them know we're not here to make trouble for anyone," Kulakow said.

"After all, it's good friends that made this all happen."



See Bryan Patrick

Robin Kulakow of the Yolo Basin Foundation said she found government workers who liked the refuge idea but none to champion it.

3,000-acre wildlife refuge designated in Yolo Bypass

By Jim Mayer
Box Staff Writer

In winters to come, when the rejuvenated swamps are full of geese from Alaska and cranes from Siberia, the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area will be remembered as the preserve almost done in by the Endangered Species Act.

Three thousand acres between Davis and West Sacramento on Monday were officially designated as the Yolo refuge, which will re-create some of the vast marsh that once defined the lower Sacramento Valley and the swarms of creatures that feasted among the reeds.

But the Yolo project stands out from other efforts to reverse the drying and draining that has left just 3 percent of the Central Valley's marshes in existence — and a growing list of marsh-dependent species are wrestling with extinction.

The first notable accomplishment was convincing flood-control engineers, people responsible for much of the swamp busting, to even allow a wetland inside the flood bypass between West Sacramento and Davis.

The second, and even greater, landmark was

the deal signed Monday that supporters say proves the Endangered Species Act can be flexible.

"Too often in the environmental arena we are concerned about what we can lose," observed Lt. Col. Mike Stahr, deputy district director for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Sacramento. "We need to look at what we can gain."

Stahr was among the dignitaries chafed off a levee by rain and into a Port of Sacramento meeting room for the official signing and proclamations ending years of difficult negotiations.

"It's probably a great day to be a duck," Stahr said, speaking of the weather, not the promised marsh.

Universally, the dignitaries gave credit to environmental advocates with the Yolo Basin Foundation for ensuring the vision to restore the bypass was not blinded by the sometimes limited vision of government agencies.

"It is not possible for this kind of project to go forward . . . unless committed citizens hold our feet to the fire," said state Resources Secretary Douglas Wheeler.

Please see WETLANDS, page B4



Project supporters hope endangered species are lured to the refuge. They agree to accept any habitat damage done by maintenance.

• • The Sacramento Bee Print • Tuesday, April 26, 1988

Wetlands: Plan inspired during Putah Creek fight

Continued from page B1

Robin Kulakow, executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, said she found government employees who liked the idea but no one who would champion it.

"There has to be someone outside of government with the freedom to talk with everyone," she said. "I could listen to everyone's story and see where we agree and disagree and then propose solutions. I was free to ask for help."

Yolo environmentalists dreamed up the project during the drought as they tried to save Putah Creek.

The small stream once roiled out of the Coast Range and dumped into the swampy lowlands that in wet seasons were filled by the overflowing Sacramento River.

The creek is now blocked by Monticello Dam, which forms Lake Berryessa. And the creek's terminus is now the bypass, the engineered relief valve that channels water around urban Sacramento.

Steve Chainey, also with the foundation, said the hard part wasn't coming up with the \$12 million to buy and build the wetlands on 3,000 acres of land.

The difficulty came when the dream collided with the history of stalemate between flood-control and wildlife agencies over maintaining existing levees in ways not harmful to endangered species.

Flood-control engineers were

concerned that the refuge would attract protected species, and that would hamstring maintenance in the bypass.

Project supporters do hope that endangered species are lured to the refuge — restoring habitat is a key strategy in reviving those species. But wildlife agents said they would accept any habitat damage done by maintenance because it would be under those conditions that creatures find the new marsh.

The agreement signed Monday goes that far.

Flood-control engineers also wanted to be promised that future maintenance operations would not be affected because of any new species added to the list.

"You don't have to hack up many years to when we had two or three endangered species in this area," said Ray Borsch, executive director of the state Reclamation Board, which is charged with levee maintenance. "Now we have four or five. In a few years, we might have 15 that makes this agreement look pretty soft."

But wildlife agents said they couldn't make such a promise. And after months of debate everyone finally agreed to a leap of faith.

"We really felt they were going as far as they could go," Borsch said. "But if you look at the big picture this is an attempt to retrieve something that was here to begin with."

Yolo: Working together

Continued from page B1
the Yolo Environmental Resource Center, the Yolo Basin Foundation and the Yolo Land Trust.

Skeptical politicians have been persuaded that conservation cannot be addressed without stopping all development or alienating landowners.

"It was a matter of getting people to work together and cooperate to preserve and enhance natural resources," said Yolo Supervisor Betty Marchand, Co-operation, she said, is hard work. Everyone's concerns must be respected. Every obstacle must be worked through.

"We don't have enough money in this county to be fighting and suing and carrying on," she said. "So we try to use resources to get something done."

Resources are always relative. Yolo, even Chainey agrees, is not Yosemite. "This is not an area where people come to live among spectacular landscapes," he said.

That reality previously encouraged Yolo conservationists to export their activism. Today it changes the current agenda. Preserving Yolo's groundwater is as important as saving oak trees. Toxic fumes are "open space."

And increasingly, Yolo is finding inspiration in what once was.

Rough and Cache creeks are dammed and diverted. But they once tumbled freely out of the Coast Range and flooded the Yolo basin, now the engineered bypass. The broad swamp that apparently earned the county its name—Yolo, some historians say, is the Indian word for tule—was long ago converted by the U.S. Army into a wide storm drain to save Sacramento from its namesake river.

Today the top Yolo goal is to manage the floodway and farmland in a way also conducive to wildlife. After four hard years, the Yolo Basin Foundation now predicts it is only a year away from "breaking ground" on a 1,100-acre restoration project where Putah Creek flows into the bypass.

Having seen cooperative conservationists are harvesting hope. This year, some basin growers flooded their land, and thousands of birds swam, geese and white pelicans are wintering there.

Why Yolo? The university is a center of science and education and controversy. Environmentalism has always been politic in Davis, where the Sierra Club boasts its highest per capita membership. The agricultural tradition is still dominant here—by nature, a conserving force. And the county is small enough for personal relationships between the major players. A majority of local officials loudly stand by commitments to control urban development. And its congressmen, Rep. Vic Fazio, D-West Sacramento, has delivered federal money for technical studies.

But these factors have long been tested. What's changed, observers say, is the emergence of a few personalities who have inspired activists and cooled adversaries, who have blended scientific understanding and diplomacy.

Chainey, for example, works for Jones and Stokes Associates, a Sacramento firm that has become preeminent environmental studies required for major developments and government projects.

He misused those skills at Putah Creek, and learned a full lesson. "It's important to have a sustained effort, not just dabble," he said. Set sights on realistic accomplishments. Respect diverse interests and be patient with adversaries. Don't just fight.

"If you can't have fun and enjoy yourself, your energy is going to dry up and blow away," he said. "It's hard to sustain when you are not being happy."

Ted Beedy and his wife, Susan, banders, both hold doctorate in

biology from Davis. Beedy also works at Jones and Stokes. Sanders, who was deep in Putah Creek, is mothering their two children full-time. Beedy remembers the night in their Woodland home when Supervisor Marchand arrived as an adversary and left as an ally. He remembers years before telling his then-girlfriend—convincingly—that it wasn't enough to understand biology.

"As biologist," Sanders said, "you can't help but care about what you study. Just so much has been lost you feel compelled to save what is left."

Robin Kulakow also was hospitalized in Putah Creek. A former Forest Service soils scientist, Kulakow discovered that restoring the creek was a social fight as much as a scientific one. She now is executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, whose vision is to make wildlife welcome in the bypass, beginning with where Putah Creek flows into the basin.

"What got me excited was when I realized tundra swans came from the arctic to spend the winter in Yolo County," Kulakow said. "It makes this an important place that should be taken care of."

Bob Schneider, now conservation chair of the local Sierra Club chapter, co-founded the California Wilderness Coalition in his younger years, then became a builder. Schneider is working with Yolo farmers to meet the best soils and encourage their preservation. "It became obvious to me that we developers, no matter how much we cared, would have over Yolo County," he said.

It is a partnership born of necessity. And grower Richard Rominger, whose family has stewarded Yolo land for 120 years. The 1960s real estate boom pushed seaward Interstate 80 Dam the Bay Area and spilled westward over the Sacramento River.

"There was an increasing awareness of the limits of our resources, more concern about what it will look like in the future," said Rominger, director of the state Department of Food and Agriculture during the 1970s. "There have been people at work to find where we have common ground," he said, "rather than emphasize the differences."

Yolo finds that cooperation aids environment

By Jim Meyer
See Staff Writer

The people in Davis have a long history of caring about the environment, says Jim Meyer. They want to save Mono Lake and Brazilian rain forests.

And so it struck some Chainey as wrong that Putah Creek, which flows smack-dab through the University of California, was being ignored.

"People need to respect and inter-

act with the environment they are most in contact with," said Chainey, a Davis alumna, a landscape architect and chairman of the Putah Creek Council.

Chainey and others set out in the mid-1980s to increase appreciation for the creek and plant a few trees. Then drought set in. Concern became a crisis. And to save the creek from slow death, the council fought to get water released from Mendocino Dam at Lake Berryessa.

"We were propelled into the political arena big time," Chainey said.

Lawmakers, Congressmen, Emergency legislation. After all, this was water. Although fish have died and trees have wilted, the creek abides.

The watershed at Putah Creek was the Lexington and Concord for a conservation revolution in Yolo County. It is one that favors compromise over confrontation, education over rhetoric, realism over idealism.

"Instead of putting out fires, we are

trying to create something new," said Susan Sanders, co-chairwoman of the Putah Creek Council.

The Sierra Club is working with the county farm bureau to conserve agriculture on the best soils. Conservationists have growers, wildlife biologists and flood control engineers all working to restore habitat in the Yolo Bypass.

The last five years has given rise to

Photo: Don TOLAN, page B1

SECTION

The Sacramento Bee

• • Tuesday, February 9, 1993

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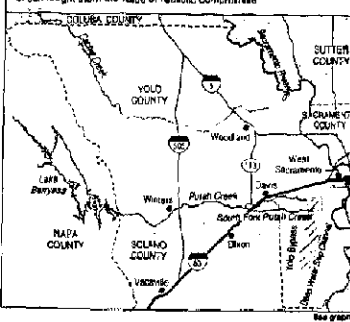
EDITORIAL
OBITUARY



With the city of Sacramento in the background, black-crowned night herons roost in willow trees on the Conewey Ranch in the Yolo basin.

B4—The Sacramento Bee Page 4, Tuesday, February 9, 1993 • •

Conserving close to home
Yolo County environmentalists say fighting for Putah Creek might mean the value of realistic compromise



I-000502

I-000502



Karen Langer/The Daily Democrat

Boyd Gibbons, left, director of the state Department of Fish and Game, and David Kennedy, director of the state Department of Water Resources sign documents Monday officially designating the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area.

3,500-acre Yolo Basin Wildlife Area dedicated

Environmental protection reached a milestone Monday with the official designation of the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area.

County Supervisor Betsy Marchand said establishment of the wetlands is the culmination of a great deal of work.

"It shows that agencies can work together for a common project," she said this morning. The Yolo Basin Wildlife Area "will be here for future generations."

Marchand, who has been a proponent of the project for years, said she considers it "probably the most exciting thing I have been involved with since I have been on the Board of Supervisors."

Local and federal officials gathered on a levee overlooking the 3,500 acres of the project located between Davis and West Sacramento but were forced by Monday's rain inside to a meeting room to sign documents that will re-establish about 2,500 acres of seasonal and permanent wetlands.

The restoration project will restore 77 percent of the seasonal and 8 percent of the perennial wetlands, 18 percent of the uplands and grasslands and 1 percent of the riparian forest in the area.

The Army Corps of Engineers will design and construct canals, water-control structures, dikes, roads and gates to create and

See WILDLIFE, back page

Wildlife

Continued from Page 1

maintain the wetlands areas.

Spearheaded by the Yolo Basin Foundation, the project upon will be managed completion by the state Department of Fish and Game.

The project is scheduled to begin this summer.

The agreements signed by the Bureau of Reclamation, the DFG, the state Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service end an impasse

between environmental wildlife groups and flood-control agencies.

Those agencies, charged with maintaining the levee system in the Yolo Bypass, have resisted efforts by wildlife groups to designate the area a refuge which would protect endangered species that use the refuge for habitat.

The agreements stipulate that the wildlife groups would allow levee maintenance to continue, even if some habitat damage results.

The Davis Enterprise

FRIDAY

August 18, 1995 Vol. 99, No. 195 Copyright 1995 The Davis Enterprise, Davis, Calif

Officials gather to dedicate Yolo Bypass wetlands project

◆ Robin Kulakow and other agency representatives attend groundbreaking Thursday

By MELANIE TURNER
Enterprise staff writer

Under a big blue sky on a warm August morning, Robin Kulakow of Davis stood in a place she is most familiar with — a wide-open, flat stretch of land called the Yolo Bypass.

But this time she stood in front of some tules on a little stage she shared with such distinguished guests as U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and Rep. Vic Fazio, D-West Sacramento.

Just six years ago, Kulakow, 38, had never given a speech in her life. On Thursday, she spoke before more than 200 people who gathered in the bypass to celebrate the creation of a 3,400-acre, \$16 million wildlife refuge — the biggest

wetlands restoration project west of Florida, according to Col. John Reese, engineer for the Sacramento Division of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Kulakow spoke of a dream come true.

"Well, we did it," she said. "All the necessary environmental documents are filed ... hydraulic models have been verified ... funds exchanged between agencies. I didn't have any idea what an education this was going to be."

As executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, Kulakow has acted as a volunteer coordinator between the many agencies — federal, state and local — that helped make the project a reality.

A former Forest Service soils scientist, Kulakow is known by friends for her ability to hold a baby in one hand, cook with the other and all the while talk on the telephone to government officials.

See WETLANDS, Page A-2



Mark Bullard/The Enterprise

U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony Thursday for the Yolo Basin Wetlands and Wildlife Refuge in the Yolo Bypass.

WETLANDS

Continued from Page A-1

"If there ever was a contest for who knows the most government phone numbers by heart, I'd probably be a finalist," she said.

It is Kulakow's hope that the Yolo Basin Wetlands Project will serve not only as a wildlife sanctuary, but an observatory for school children. The foundation's primary goal is education.

When completed, late next year, the project will include a wildlife sanctuary as well as areas with public access where people can go to observe sandhill cranes and snow geese.

It will include mostly seasonal wetland, 70 percent, with some permanent wetland 40 percent, grassland 10 percent and riparian woodland 10 percent.

Why the name "Wetlands"? she asked. "We wanted to create the wildlife area for our children."

This place is for David, Leah, Sarah, Joey, Katrina, Charlie. She said, listing the names of her children, including her son and those whose parents are taking the project seriously.

She listed the names, she said, with tears.

Go for it, Robin, supervisor Betsy Marchand said from her seat near the podium. Marchand is a member of the foundation's board of directors and has supported the project from the start.

I hope that they will chase dragonflies, learn about insects, search for otters, listen for bitterns and count geese," Kulakow continued, smiling. "I hope this place will give them the opportunity to grow up to appreciate the place in which they live."

"It's such a great occasion at the end of such a long and productive struggle," said Fazio, who was instrumental in securing federal funds for the project. "We are once again in this community, taking the lead."

Michael Spear, regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Pacific Region, told the crowd this is only the beginning.

"We have about 10,000 acres here," he said. "She'll represent Kulakow and the Yolo Basin Foundation with the National Wetlands Conservation Award."

In late 1991, the state Wildlife Conservation Board bought most of the property on behalf of the Department of Fish and Game from PG&E Properties for \$4.57 million. When construction is completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ducks Unlimited, oversight of the area will be transferred to Fish and Game.

Ducks Unlimited is working

under a contract with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with funding from the corps to design and build the wetlands.

Secretary of the Interior Babbitt spoke of the similarities between the largest restoration project in the Florida Everglades system and the second largest here in the Yolo Bypass. They each include "a concept of partnership, a quality of imagination and the important American ingredient of individuals."

He said a woman with a vision drove each project to fruition.

"Agriculture, wildlife and a dynamic urban area can work together, not exclusively," said Babbitt. "And I believe that message has to be spread across the entire country."

"The corps, for 100 years, successfully drained every swamp in the United States of America," he added, evoking laughter. "And now we're calling on them to put them back together."

Brig. Gen. Bruce Scott, commander of the South Pacific Division of the Army Corps of Engineers, said he hopes the project will serve as a role model for others across the nation.

"What a great day to be a soldier. What a great day to be an engineer," he said.

"What a spectacular day to celebrate the culmination of what many have called a unique partnership," added Col. Reese. "This is but the first in a series of steps on our way to restoring California's natural heritage."

The project uses canals and water control structures designed and constructed by the corps in an attempt to most closely simulate conditions of the bypass more than 100 years ago, while not obstructing the floodway.

Its creators hope it will eventually serve as an important link—a rest stop for migrant birds—along the Pacific Flyway.

Wetlands restoration an environmental success

By MELANIE TURNER
Staff Writer

THEN: It was August of 1989 when a groundbreaking ceremony celebrated the latest wetland restoration project west of Florida.

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt was a special guest that day, helping to mark the beginning of restoration work at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

Yolo Basin Foundation Executive Director Robin Kulakow and Steve Chalmers, chairman of the Patah Creek Council, dreamed years ago of re-creating what once was part of a big wetland basin. Around 1900, the area was developed into a facility for diverting Sacramento River floodwaters away from livestock and into the Delta.

Then & Now

Kulakow and Chalmers formed a small working group with the council and the Yolo Audubon Society, and numerous people soon joined them.

The Yolo Basin Foundation is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to inspiring and educating people about wetlands and wildlife. It formed in 1988 to promote the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

Now: Today, the nearly 3,700-acre wildlife area is near completion and on track to open to the public by this fall.

"We're very excited," Kulakow said. "We finally get to do



Todd Hammond/The Enterprise

UC Davis student Brett Converse surveys a site adjacent to the new Fish and Game headquarters for a mini-wetlands project.

our educational programs."

Also, the state Department of Fish and Game is in the process of moving into its new headquarters along Chiles Road. Fish and Game is charged with managing the wildlife area, as well as oper-

ating the hunting program, according to Craig Stowers, wildlife area manager.

The public will have access to certain portions, while other ar-

See WETLANDS, Page A-2



Todd Hammond/The Enterprise

Craig Stowers, area manager for the state Department of Fish and Game, talks with Robin Kulakow of the Yolo Basin Foundation and her daughter, Leah.

WETLANDS

Continued from Page A-1

ens will be closed and designated wildlife sanctuaries. Duck hunting will occur on other portions during hunting season.

Drawn from the Bardenath Builders of Sacramento, and contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, constructed Fish and Game's Bardenath operation and maintenance facility. It consists of a headquarters with office space, conference room, and a covered porch for launching field trips.

The foundation will have an office at the site for volunteer programs. Volunteers hope to move into the new facility in about two weeks, Kulakow said.

There also is a large maintenance shed in the rear of the property for workshop and storage of equipment; needed to maintain the wildlife area, and residence was constructed for an on-site Fish and Game staff person.

Yolo Basin Foundation tours wrapped up on Sunday and will begin again in the fall. But the foundation's work won't slow down this summer, as it gears up for the public opening.

First, the foundation announces a new program, "Discover the Riverway," to introduce school teachers and students to the bypass as a learning resource. The program will provide teachers with activities they can use in the classroom to cover wetlands lessons throughout an integrated curriculum.

After a one-day workshop, teachers will be invited to take students out for an outdoor classroom experience.

Kulakow hopes to hold workshops for 40 teachers. Two workshops are scheduled for Aug. 19 and 20. The program is sponsored by the foundation in cooperation

with Fish and Game and the Corps.

Teachers are encouraged to call program coordinator, Lisa McCoy at 755-1286 for more information.

Later this summer, the foundation begins volunteers to assist with the last two weeks of September. Call Merry to request an application packet.

The foundation also will help construct a one-quarter to one-half-acre demonstration wetlands outside the new Fish and Game headquarters. Right now, engineering design work is under way by volunteers Andy Bain and Bob Smith with Larry Walker Associates, consulting engineers, according to Stowers.

"For many years we had hoped to have a demonstration wetlands on the Fish and Game site," Kulakow said. "Money from the (U.S.) Army Corps of Engineers' bill through."

The foundation successfully secured grant money and with the help of a variety of agencies the project will come to fruition. The demonstration project is funded through grants from the California Waterfowl Association and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The pond design is based on conceptual plans developed by the Corps.

Grading and installation of water control structures will be done by Fish and Game. Hedgecove Farms has donated native grass plants, and other help will come from individuals with UC Davis and Ducks Unlimited.

"It's been that obviously a lot of people have brought into," Kulakow said.

And night now Davis Community College is sponsoring the Yolo Basin Foundation to help lift it up a Web site, Kulakow added.

"That'll be a good way to com-

municate with volunteers and get information out to the public," she said.

It was nearly two years ago that a sign was erected along Interstate 50 telling news of the restoration project to passing motorists. Earth in the bypass began to be sculpted into shallow ponds ranging in size from 5 to 30 acres.

A small riparian forest was planted in the project's western section at that time, too. The eight-acre forest is now fairly well established, according to Kulakow. Some of the trees have put on seven feet of growth.

Contractors and the support of Ducks Unlimited have now completed the earth moving work necessary to create the thousands of acres of seasonal and permanent ponds that make up the wildlife area.

Last October, seasonal wetlands were seeded with winter-timely, a highly nutritious waterfowl food plant. In November, uplands were seeded with native perennial grasses.

Work remaining includes the installation of the remaining water control structures, grassland seeding and planting of riparian areas north of the causeway. This work is expected to begin in June.

The area will serve as a vital link along the Pacific Flyway, used annually by thousands of migratory birds.

When construction is completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ducks Unlimited, over eight of the area will be transferred to Fish and Game.

OPINION

Editorial

Wetland refuge benefits county

At long last the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area has been achieved.

It almost didn't happen because different agencies just couldn't come together. But because some people were very persistent there is now a refuge for wildlife on 3,000 acres between Davis and West Sacramento, which will re-create a vast wetland, reversing — if only a little — the effort to dike and drain the Central Valley marshes.

County Supervisor Betsy Marchand said the wildlife area is a culmination of a great deal of work and "shows that agencies can work together for a common project.

Marchand, who has been a proponent of the project for years, said she considers it "probably the most exciting thing I have been involved with since I have been on the Board of Supervisors."

We can credit the Yolo Basin Foundation and people like Robin Kulakow with having the vision to pursue the wetlands area. Kulakow is executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, and was quite correct when she said that people outside of government often have to talk to everyone, look for agreements and disagreements, and build from there. Too often, petty turf wars between state, federal and local agencies keep sensible things from being done.

To bring about the wetlands area the foundation first had to come up with \$12 million to buy and build the refuge. That wasn't tough. The hard part was working with flood-control and wildlife agencies over levee upkeep that wouldn't be harmful to endangered species. Flood control people were worried that if protected species were drawn to the refuge they couldn't perform needed levee maintenance. But wildlife managers said they could live with such problems because protected species in the long run would have a place to go. In the long run, however, we have a case where people have worked together to retrieve something that was originally here to being with. Cooperation toward a specific goal is never in vain. And cooperation to protect endangered species is a valiant goal.

the
West Sacramento
PRESS

Opinion

What, we agree?

Interestingly enough, the recently dedicated State Wildlife Area in the Yolo Bypass at the Putah Creek Sinks received no opposition.

How can this be? We're Californians and nothing gets approval without a fight.

It must be because the project has such high ideals. Or, maybe it's because no one was looking and they slipped something good by us before we realized it. At any rate, the project will become a reality and nobody is kicking.

Another odd, but wonderful angle in the development of the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area is the involvement of the US Army Corps of Engineers. As we recall, they are the people who constructed the levees, saving us from floods, enabling vast areas of land to be developed, and helping us manage our water.

While accomplishing these necessary achievements, in the name of progress, we lost sight of some fragile balances in nature. It's encouraging to see the possibility of the pendulum of habitat destruction beginning to swing back to more comfortable levels.

Hopefully, West Sacramentans will realize what they have right in their backyard. It's an opportunity to watch the restoration efforts unfold. The Yolo Basin Foundation needs your generous assistance to continue its work in educating the public about the value of preserving our native wildlife and to create a place of beauty for generations to come. To join, call them at 756-7248 or write Yolo Basin Foundation, P.O. Box 943, Davis, CA 95617.

Wetland Link International news



Wetland Link
International

Wetland Link International IS A PROGRAMME OF THE WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST

NUMBER 10
JULY 1996



Bruce Babbitt, US Secretary of the Interior, addresses the crowd of supporters gathered to celebrate the start of habitat restoration at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, August 1995.

YOLO: From dream to reality

An exciting project to restore historic wetlands between Sacramento and San Francisco, USA, was reported in the last issue of *WLI News* (page 7). The community effort behind the establishment of the 'Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area', as the project is known, is a strong example of how a diverse network of organisations in the private, non-profit and public sectors can work together for a common goal, with shared benefits, and is worthy of closer scrutiny.

The loss of more than 95% of California's Central Valley wetlands (on the Pacific Flyway) to agriculture and

urban development since the 1850s provided the impetus to develop a concept for restoration in the Yolo Basin area. The idea originated with two established community organisations.

From this, the Yolo Basin Working Group grew; an ad hoc association of officers and elected representatives from federal- and state-level government conservation, water, fish, game, public works and transportation departments; the regional mosquito and vector control agency; and a number of non-governmental wildlife, farm and wilderness organisations. A consistent core of the group, including the Yolo Basin Foundation (YBF), met monthly to report new information and discuss plans.

The US Army Corps (the Corps) was involved from the beginning, and provided funding to the US non-governmental organisation Ducks Unlimited to restore wetland habitat in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The area will eventually be managed by the state government's Fish and Game

Department for hunting, as a sanctuary, and for wildlife viewing. Educational programmes will be provided by the YBF.

The YBF has developed and maintained the vital roles of representing the diverse community-based support (itself so important in attracting funding for all aspects of the work) and acting as communicator and co-ordinator between organisations.

Today, after seven years of meeting and planning, the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is becoming a physical reality. The final plans have been completed through a collaboration between engineers and biologists from Ducks Unlimited, the Corps and the California Fish and Game Department. Ducks Unlimited is managing the on-site work, drawing on its experience of wetland restoration from all over North America, and teaming up with the Corps for the first time. In August 1995 landscaping, habitat creation and planting began. Completion of the 1 400 hectare habitat re-creation project is planned for autumn 1996.

A feasibility study for a visitor centre has been completed. But we are not awaiting completion of our Centre before we begin educational work. This is already operational, targeting interested people at this stage, through printed materials, field trips and other regular wetland events. In fact, education began as soon as people began discussing the concept on Day 1! Future plans will put school outreach as our priority, and will include a training programme for volunteer field guides.

Continued on page two

I differently understood around the world. I would like to help clarify this, particularly at a time when Wetlands International, with a logo a little similar to the original WLI logo, has recently been announced.

Wetland Link International (WLI) is a programme of The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), a UK charity dedicated to saving wetlands for wildlife and people. Wetlands International is a different UK charity, formed by the integration in 1995 of the International Waterfowl & Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB), the Asian Wetland Bureau (AWB) and Wetlands for the Americas. There is a link between the two: the Director of Education and Public Affairs for WWT, Mr Doug Hulyer, is ex officio Director of WLI, and he is also the Co-ordinator of Wetlands International's Specialist Group on Education and Public Awareness, of which WLI is a member.



Henceforth, the WWT Wetland Link International programme should be referred to as WWT Wetland Link International, or WWT-WLI, to help clarify its position. I would like to request that this format is consistently adopted. Thank you.



One of the most difficult types of request received by the WWT-WLI office is for help with the very early stages of a Centre development proposal, specifically the formulation of outline functional and design concepts. We wish to relay

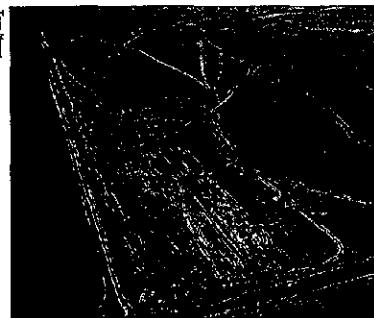
the publication of self-help guidelines and case studies (which we plan to undertake in the future), our usual approach is to share whatever relevant documentation we have. This may include existing outline concept papers, floor plans, strategic plans, architects' briefs and successful proposals, for example, from a range of Centres around the world.

Who has such documents to share? Ideally, we would like to hold more in the WWT-WLI office, for more effective use in the future. Usually such documents are rarely referred to once a Centre is operational, yet they can be invaluable tools for others going through the initial phases of Centre development. Please could you let me know if you have such documents, and if copies can be made available for the use of others, through the WWT-WLI office? Thank you for any help you can give.

YOLO: From dream to reality

Continued from page one

So how does the YBF, a pivotal, community-based organisation, work and how have seven years of planning and development been funded?



Aerial view of earth-movers excavating ponds for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, October 1995.

The YBF is a non-profit organisation dedicated to education and inspiring people about wetlands and other Central Valley wildlife habitats. We have a board of 17 members drawn from the range of interested parties, including local

government, schools, business, academia, law, environmental education, banking, (duck) hunting; and myself, the only salaried board member, as executive director. There are two part-time YBF employees, and a core group of about 30 dedicated volunteers.

Funds have come from membership of the YBF, annual fundraising events, the sale of Yolo-marked goods such as a set of field duck identification charts, and occasional non-government grants such as the one that funded the Centre feasibility study.

Remember: some dreams do come true. A collective vision is worth pursuing, but you must be tenacious. We are not finished yet!

From our experiences over the past seven years I would like to offer the following, in an effort to help others in the future:

1. Have a clear mission and do not be diverted from it.
2. Define the project clearly and unambiguously.
3. Gain a thorough understanding of the project area: its history; ownership;

political jurisdictions; flood history; the local communities and their interests, hopes and concerns; water, wildlife and soils.

4. Base all plans on good science; fund studies to fill any gaps in understanding.
5. Involve everyone in discussions, keep them informed and respect their concerns.
6. Solicit and achieve local government support early on, and higher-level government support if possible.
7. Appoint a co-ordinator to serve as a facilitator, communicator and spokesperson, who has the responsibility to ensure that follow-up is completed.
8. Never assume that things are happening; always make sure.
9. Do not be afraid to be creative and innovative.
10. Actively recognise everyone's contributions.

Robin Kulakow
Executive Director
Yolo Basin Foundation
PO Box 943, Davis, CA 95617, USA

July 2, 1997

«Firstname» «Lastname»
«Address»

RE: Yolo Basin Wetlands VISITOR CENTER: Roundtable discussion meeting -
July 18th, 8am-12pm, Fish and Game Headquarters office, 45211 County Rd. 32B (Chiles Rd.)

Dear Mr. «Lastname»,

On behalf of the Yolo Basin Foundation, we would like to invite your participation in early discussions on the planning of a Visitor Center for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and other Yolo Basin wetlands.

As you know, the Foundation has been fortunate to be able to coordinate the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (Wildlife Area), with considerable key support from local, state, and federal agencies and from many public and private organizations. The Foundation's objectives have always included the development of a Visitor Center, in order to increase awareness and education about wetlands in the Yolo Basin and elsewhere. Now that the Wildlife Area is approaching completion the Foundation is concentrating on its *Discover the Flyway* program for schools and considering with renewed interest the development of a Visitor Center.

The idea of a Visitor's Center is still in the very early stages of planning. Thusfar a Vision Statement (copy attached) has been drafted, a professional market feasibility study has been produced, and informal discussions with groups such as the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, have been quite positive. The center would be a natural home for education issues on wetlands, other Central Valley habitats, and water-related issues such as flooding. We have also received expressions of interest from nearby landowners and from regulatory agencies, building on their earlier support for the wetlands project in the Bypass.

We would like to invite you to review the initial ideas and provide your input on the Visitor Center concept, possible locations, and future planning processes. We feel that, if appropriately planned, such a project could offer unique benefits for conservation, public awareness, and the local economy. We hope that, through an open process of soliciting stakeholder participation, progress on this important educational resource will move forward in earnest.

We are planning a roundtable discussion seminar on the Visitor Center for Friday 18th July 1997 8 am - noon, at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Headquarters Building at 45211 County Road 32B (Chiles Road) in Davis, approximately one mile east of Mace Boulevard. We would be delighted if you could attend, or send a representative to participate. The purpose of this meeting is to

develop a shared vision for a Visitor Center and associated facilities, and to establish an expanded Visitor Center Planning Group to help guide the development of this important facility. We believe that no other location in the State has the advantages that the Yolo Basin can offer for a high-profile visitor center about the inter-related issues of: wetlands, wildlife, water resources, and related land and watershed conservation issues.

Please confirm your attendance of this meeting by July 10th. You can phone us or Email us at the following locations:

Stephen Sheppard:

Office(EDAW Inc.): 415-433-1484 (fax: 415-788-4875)

Email: SRJShep@aol.com

Bob Schneider:

Home: (916) 758-4315 (fax: 916 758-4391)

Email: duckdays@dcn.davis.ca.us

Please let us know if you have questions about the meeting. We very much appreciate your interest and welcome your ideas.

Yours truly,

Stephen Sheppard
Visitor Center Committee Chair
Yolo Basin Foundation

Bob Schneider
Yolo Basin Foundation

enclosed: draft Vision Statement

Attachment 10
Yolo Flyway Newsletter

YOLO FLYWAY

Volume 6, Issue 1, Spring 1997

A PUBLICATION OF THE YOLO BASIN FOUNDATION



An army of earth movers, with the Sacramento skyline in the background, sits ready for work on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Photo Courtesy of Tom Myers.

YOLO BASIN WETLANDS ARE HERE!

For eight years we have been telling our friends "the Yolo Basin Wetlands are coming," "work is starting," and "work is progressing." Now we can say "they're here!"

Driving over the Yolo Causeway on Interstate 80 this past summer and fall you may have observed earth moving activities just south and north of the highway. Contractors under the supervision of Ducks Unlimited completed the earth moving work necessary to create the thousands of acres of seasonal and permanent ponds that make up the new 3500 acre Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Many acres of ponds were constructed, access roads graded and rocked, water control structures installed, and pumps readied for the work of flooding the new wetlands.

In late October thousands of acres of seasonal wetlands were seeded with swamp timothy, a highly nutritious waterfowl food plant. Sev-

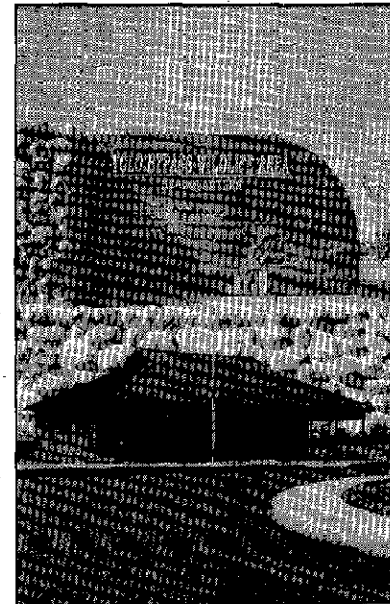
eral hundred acres of uplands were seeded with native perennial grasses in November just before the rainy season began. The 8 acre riparian forest, planted in August, 1995, is thriving. Some of the sycamores, cottonwoods, willows, and Oregon ash have put on seven feet of growth.

The final work to be completed includes installation of the remaining water control structures, grassland seeding and planting of riparian areas north of the causeway. Robert Charney, Ducks Unlimited engineer for the project, anticipates that work will begin in June once the flood season is over and the roads are dry. He estimates that work will be completed in Fall 1997. The area will open to the public in the fall as well.

According to Robert Charney, the winter flooding did cause some damage to roads and pipe installations but it was not excessive. Some flood damage repairs will be needed, but no major earthwork is anticipated.

FISH AND GAME MOVES INTO YOLO BYPASS WILDLIFE AREA HEADQUARTERS

On January 31, 1997 the attractive wood and stone sign marking the new California Department of Fish and Game Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area headquarters was put in place at the entrance to the facility on Chiles Road. For the past six months crews from Hardcraft Builders of Sacramento, under contract with the US Army Corps of Engineers, have *continued on page 3*



This building houses the offices of State Fish Game staff charged with managing the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

SHORT-EARED OWL

by John Kemper

Short-eared owls are usually thought of as creatures of the arctic tundra, so it often comes as a surprise to learn that we have them in Yolo County. There has always been a traditional local place to see them, and now we have a new one, as well.

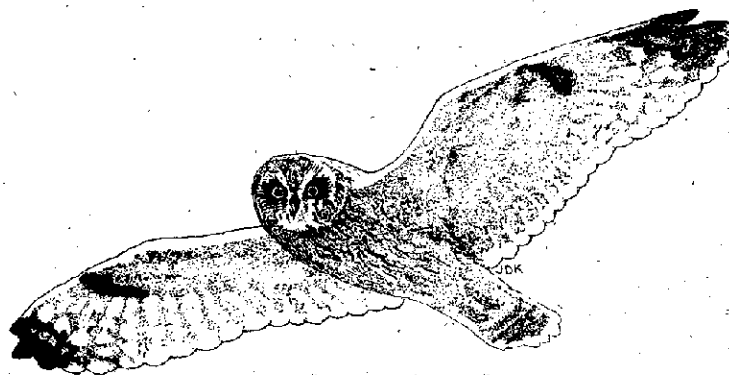
Here's how to see a short-eared owl. Go out Pole Line Road and turn east on the road that leads to the Yolo County Landfill. Just before you come to the landfill, there is a large grassy area to the left, with many sprinkler heads. This is the traditional place, long familiar to local birders.

There are one or two spots where there is enough room to park well off the road. (The traffic on the road moves fast.) You need to be there about sunset, and then you have to wait. There will probably be some northern harrers and white-tailed kites hunting low over the fields, and both of these are sometimes mistaken for short-eared owls. Here's what to look for.

First, a short-eared owl will have a floppy, irregular wing beat which some people have compared to the flight of a moth. Second, it will have a short, thick neck that gives it a blunt-headed look. Then, when it passes close enough to see the whitish underwings, you will be able to spot the large black comma-shaped marks which occur in the location of the so-called "wrists."

White-tailed kites also have white underwings with black marks at the wrists, but they don't have that blunt-headed look. Male harrers have white underwings, but they lack the black marks at the wrists. Also, short-eared owls have a narrow pale band that extends along the trailing edge of the wing all the way to the outermost flight feathers.

The field near the landfill is



called the "Hunt Wesson/Yolo Audubon Hawk and Owl Reserve." It actually is Hunt Wesson's place to dispose of the effluent from their cannery on Covell Blvd., but Hunt Wesson has an agreement with Yolo Audubon to manage the land to avoid disturbance of breeding hawks and owls. The field is attractive to rodents, and the rodents are what attracts the hawks and owls.

Here's the new place: the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Actually, for the owls it's probably not a new place at all, because the owls favor open fields and marshes, just like those in the Yolo Bypass. It's probably only because there are more observers going out into the Bypass lately that it's become apparent that it is a good place for short-eared owls. They've been seen there on recent field trips of the Yolo Basin Foundation, and also during the 1996 Audubon Christmas Count.

Short-eared owls live on every continent except Australia. In the United States, their zone of permanent residence extends through the northern states from coast to coast. In the breeding season, some of the population migrates to the Arctic, while some of it stays put. In the winter, some birds move south as far as Southern California, the Gulf

Coast, and Florida. Yolo County and the San Francisco Bay Area lie at the southern edge of the zone of permanent residence, and some birds breed here. During the winter, there tends to be more of them.

Their numbers in any one location may fluctuate drastically, depending upon the abundance of prey. In the Arctic, they hunt lemmings, but almost everywhere else their prey consists overwhelmingly of meadow mice, sometimes as much as 95 percent. The remainder consists of insects such as grasshoppers and beetles, and occasionally of small birds. For some reason, short-eared owls in California seem to include birds in their diet to a higher degree than in other regions.

By the way, don't waste your time looking for the "ears" on a short-eared owl. I've looked for them on a number of occasions, sometimes at fairly close range on a sitting owl, and have never been able to see them. Besides, those "ears" are not ears at all. The true ears are hidden beneath the feathers. The ear openings are nearly two inches long, and provide the birds with exceedingly acute hearing. One observer (*Dawkins*) even claimed they can "... hear the footfall of a beetle at a hundred yards."

CALIFORNIA DUCK DAYS:

A Wetland Festival in the Heart of the Pacific Flyway

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Duck Days was held at the Veteran's Memorial Center in Davis, and the entire complex was buzzing with workshops, demonstrations, and departing and arriving field trips. People browsed in the Exhibition Hall full of displays, hands-on activities, and information from organizations working on wetlands or related conservation issues.

Duck Days guests came from all over California and five different states, Connecticut, Illinois, Washington, Pennsylvania, and Nevada. Fifty percent of the participants live in Yolo County while 18 percent came from the greater Sacramento area

and 16 percent from the San Francisco Bay Area.

Children played wetland games, bird-watched from their bikes, made tule boats, listened to the magic storytelling of Voice of the Wood, and clapped their hands to the catchy tunes of singer Linda Book. Bird-watchers enjoyed hundreds of noisy Sandhill cranes flying over their heads as they toured the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. People searched for elk at Grizzly Island and thrilled to the sight of a bald eagle while touring rice lands.

All totaled 160 different wildlife species were recorded on the official trip sightings list including 149 birds, 7 mammals, 3 reptiles, and 1 crustacean (fairy shrimp). The only way to share in the countless experiences that make up Duck Days is to attend next year. See you February 6-8, 1998!

Join the Fun!

Plans for 1998 are already well underway and you are welcome to join the fun.

For information on how to get involved in Duck Days please call 756-1266.

We'll see you at the festival February 6-8th, 1998.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE DUCK DAYS

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It is encouraging to know that many people return to Duck Days each year. From the volunteer steering committee to the registration volunteers and field trip launchers, the festival is a focal point for a community of people to come together in order to put on an a festive event to support wetlands education and wildlife. Thank you to the many volunteers who gave your time and a smile.

Thanks also go to the many agency staff who donated their weekend time to the event. Staff from the University of California, Davis, California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District, and the City of Davis were instrumental in many field trips, workshops, and educational exhibits. Next time you go to a wildlife area or facility run by these agencies, realize that the people working there are dedicated to the resources they manage whether they are on duty or off.

The local Yolo Audubon Society provided outstanding leaders for field trips all over the area - thanks to our field trip coordinator Joan Humphrey, her predecessor Judy Whitcombe, and the talented group of field trip leaders from Yolo Audubon.

Finally, the California Waterfowl Association has taken a strong role in the organizing and development of California Duck Days and their partnership will ensure a creative and enduring festival in the future. Judy Yost, from the River City Ladies Committee did a great job producing the Open House. Gregg Yarris, Mike Hall, and Mike Connor worked hard to put on field trips and organize the successful Second Annual CWA Banquet in Davis.

SIXTH ANNUAL BUCKS FOR DUCKS A SUCCESS

Thank you to our many friends for making the sixth annual Bucks for Ducks fund raiser a great success. Over 200 people attended the reception held at North Davis Farms on Friday, October 4th. Thank you to John and Judy Whitcombe for their generous hospitality. We are grateful for the support of the 67 individuals, community, organizations and businesses that sponsored the event. Please see the adjoining list of sponsors.

The reception ended with a raffle of wildlife art and other interesting items. Thank you to the many indi-

viduals, businesses and organizations who donated raffle items: The Mustard Seed, The Avid Reader, Discoveries, The Naturalist, The Artistic Touch, Konditorei Austrian Pastry Cafe, Pects Coffee, Cookie Company, Krellenworks, Starbucks Coffee, California Waterfowl Association, Cornflower Farms, John Lescroart, Barbara Wells, Tom and Meg Stallard, State Department of Fish and Game, Moonshine Trading Company, Yolo Audubon Society, Putah Creek Council, Yolo Shortline Railroad, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and artists Sherrie Russell Meline, Vicky Hipsley,

Harry Adamson, Thomas Quinn, Robert Solari, Judy Whitcombe and Keith Hansen.

Bucks for Ducks is the Foundation's largest fund raiser of the year. Our seven year effort on behalf of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is successful because of your support.

Mark your calendars now for the next Bucks for Ducks! Friday, October 3, 1997, 5:00 - 8:00 PM, at the new Tandem Properties office overlooking the beautiful Northstar Pond.

Bucks for Ducks Sponsors ~ October 1996

Hornestake Mining Company
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Southern California Edison
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P.G. & E.
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RRL Strong
Pacific Flyway Decoy Association

YOLO BASIN FOUNDATION RECEIVES ESTUARY AWARD

On October 12, 1996 the Yolo Basin Foundation was given an award for Outstanding Implementation Project for the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for the San Francisco Bay Estuary. The award was given by Friends of the San Francisco Bay Estuary and presented at the State of the Estuary Conference at the Presidio. Yolo Basin Foundation executive director Robin Kulakow also participated in the Innovative Local Restoration Efforts Session as a panelist.

DAVIS WETLANDS UPDATE

By Mike Connor

The Davis Wetlands earthwork is close to completion. All the ponds, islands and riparian areas have been excavated. This winter each wetland unit filled with rainwater and attracted a few hundred tundra swans and several species of ducks. Presently, there is still a little water left (much to the delight of several species of shorebirds e.g. dowitchers, dunlin, American avocets, black-necked stilts, and least sand-

pipers). I saw the year's first white-faced ibises out there about the beginning of March!

This Spring and Summer we'll install water control structures, pumps and a channel to convey stormwater to the site. We'll also be working on preparing the site for native vegetation implementation which is slated for the Fall.

Mike Connor is a biologist with the City of Davis, Public Works Department.

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GISELLE'S BIRDING TOUR BENEFITS DUCK DAYS

In conjunction with sponsorship of California Duck Days, Giselle's Travel introduced professionally escorted winter birding trips to Costa Rica. These trips will financially benefit California Ducks Days. The travel company, which has an office in Davis, donated a large Duck Days banner to the festival that will be used for many years to direct people to the festival headquarters. Anyone interested in the Costa Rica trip or other eco-tours may call Giselle's at 756-7770.

THANK YOU DUCK DAYS DONORS

Yolo Basin Foundation and the Duck Days Steering Committee would like to thank the following donors for their generous contributions to this educational event: Sierra Club California, the City of Davis, NovoNordisk Biotech Inc., Business & Professional Bank, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Giselle's Travel, PG&E

PANCAKES FOR DUCKS

Sunday morning at Duck Days was full of activity and good food, as the Pioneer PTA served up pancakes and other breakfast treats for 300 guests. The Club Room was decorated with bright balloons and wetland theme center pieces made by each class at Pioneer School.

The proceeds of this PTA community service event were donated to Yolo Basin Foundation to be specifically used for wetland related activities that benefit children.

Properties, Ellison & Schneider, Delta Wetlands Properties, EIP Associates, Pioneer School PTA, Conaway Ranch, Ramada Inn, Modern Art Graphics, Eagle Optics, The Paint Chip, Tandem Properties, The Printer, and The Mustard Seed. Financial and in-kind support from these generous donors made California Duck Days fly strong.

DUCK DAYS CELEBRATES PARTNERSHIPS

As the proud sponsoring organization of Duck Days, Yolo Basin Foundation would like to recognize the cooperative efforts of the steering committee members and the other participating organizations that made the many Duck Days activities possible.

Together these 65 organizations put together a diverse set of field trips, workshops, demonstrations and displays illustrating the many facets of Central Valley wetlands and the people working to manage and conserve these resources for the future.

Recognition goes to the 1997

Duck Days steering committee members: Ann Brice, Cache Creek Conservancy, Joyce Gutstein, University of California, Davis, Joan Humphrey and Judy Whitcombe, Yolo Audubon Society, Gregg Yarris, California Waterfowl Association, Bruce Forman, California Department of Fish and Game, Robin Kulakow, Yolo Basin Foundation, Bob Schneider, Sierra Club California, Kathleen Stephens, Virginia Mahacek, and Duck Days coordinator, Liz Merry. Welcome to new 1998 steering committee members Mike Connor, City of Davis and Alida Morzenti, UC Davis.

DEMONSTRATION WETLAND COMING TO FISH AND GAME HEADQUARTERS

By this summer construction will be underway for a one acre demonstration wetland located adjacent to the new Fish and Game headquarters. This Yolo Basin Foundation project is funded through grants from California Waterfowl Association and US Fish and Wildlife Service. The CWA grant is funded by their new Heritage Sprig youth membership program. The first 100 members of this new membership category will be directly supporting the demonstration wetland project and will have their names on a special plaque displayed at the headquarters. The Foundation was awarded a challenge cost share grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to match the CWA funds. These funds will be used to purchase pipe, irrigation supplies, and other materials. Thank you to Dave Patterson of CWA for assisting with the funding of this project. Additional funding for children's educational materials was donated by the Pioneer PTA from proceeds of their Duck Days pancake breakfast.

The pond design is based on conceptual plans developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers as part of the original design of the Fish and Game headquarters. Due to budget constraints the demonstration wetland component of the design was unfunded and now will be constructed under the auspices of the Yolo Basin Foundation. Grading and installation of water control structures will be done by Fish and Game wildlife area personnel. Mike Fujisubo, landscape architect with the Corps, will provide design detail. Andy Balc and Bob Smith with Larry Walker Associ-

continued on page 8

DEMONSTRATION WETLAND...

continued from page 7

ates, consulting engineers, will do the surveying and staking as volunteers. Native grass plugs for a perennial grassland surrounding the pond will be donated by Hedgerow Farms. Craig Thomsen, a range scientist with UC Davis, will provide native forbs for attracting butterflies and other beneficial insects. Paul Hofmann, Fish and Game biologist, and Robert Charney, Ducks Unlimited engineer, will

provide technical assistance. The demonstration wetland will be modeled after the larger ponds in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and will serve as an easily accessible outdoor classroom for students of all ages. There will be observation areas and a trail accessing the pond for closer study. All vegetation will be native plants typical of Central Valley wetlands and riparian areas, providing an excellent

opportunity for students to become familiar with the plants at a convenient study site. This project will be an integral part of the Foundation's school outreach programs. It is another example of a successful Yolo Basin partnership providing habitat and educational resources for the community. Look for upcoming announcements recruiting volunteers for planting days this Fall and Winter.

JOIN THE YOLO BASIN FOUNDATION

I would like to become a friend of the Yolo Basin Foundation. Enclosed is a donation of:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ other

Please make checks payable to Yolo Basin Foundation and mail to P.O. Box 943, Davis, CA 95617. Donations of \$35 or more will receive a complimentary set of Western Waterfowl Identification cards. Donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support.

name _____
address _____
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yolo basin foundation

P.O. BOX 943
DAVIS, CA 95617
916 756-7248

Address Correction Requested

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Printer: The Printer, Davis

Duck Days & Program Coordinator: Elizabeth Merry

The Yolo Basin Foundation is a non-profit public benefit corporation dedicated to inspiring and educating people about wetlands and wildlife. The Yolo Flyway is a periodic publication of the Yolo Basin Foundation. Printed on recycled paper. Please recycle after sharing with your friends and associates.

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Attachment 11

Yolo Basin Foundation Background Flyer

BUILDING ON SUCCESS

The Foundation has a proven record of success. Our efforts have been recognized in many ways. In August 1995, over 150 people attended a groundbreaking celebration at the Yolo Basin Wetlands site. There the Foundation was presented with a National Wetlands Conservation Award from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. At that ceremony, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt lauded our success at creating the largest wetlands restoration project west of the Everglades.

Other awards to the Foundation include the Award for Excellence in nonprofit management given by the San Francisco based Management Center and The People at Chevron. At the State of Estuary Conference in October, 1996, the Foundation was recognized for outstanding implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for the San Francisco Bay Estuary.

Now that the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is a reality, we want to share this spectacular resource with the world, specifically the world of children. Our dream is to reach all the children in the region, and let them experience for themselves the joy of seeing 100,000 ducks, geese and swans in a vast wetland. We feel that the most crucial element in conservation of wildlife resources is to make the next generation understand why wildlife habitat deserves protection. We want children to see firsthand this regional treasure, and to help them understand why all of us must preserve the wetlands of the Pacific Flyway.

YOLO *basin* foundation

PO Box 943

Davis, CA 95617

(916)756-7248

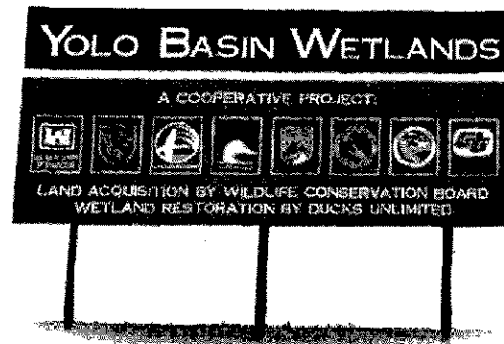
Contact: Robin Kulakow, executive director

Tax Status: 501(c)3 nonprofit public benefit corporation; Tax ID # 68-0230311

When you drive on Interstate 80 east toward the Yolo Causeway between Davis and Sacramento, you may observe the large sign identifying the Yolo Basin Wetlands. That sign with the logos of the many Yolo Basin partners marks the location of one of the nation's most exciting developments in nature conservation and public education. The Yolo Basin Wetlands, officially known as the Yolo Bypass State Wildlife Area, is the largest public/private restoration project in the West. 3,500 acres of land in the Yolo Bypass floodway are under conversion to wetlands and other habitats.

Yolo Basin Foundation (Foundation) was founded in 1990 as a community based organization to assist in the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The Foundation is a non profit public benefit corporation dedicated to educating and inspiring people about wetlands and wildlife of the Central Valley. The 16 member board of directors represents a diverse group of interests, from agriculture and waterfowl conservation to local government and the business community. It is universally credited with being the driving force behind the partnership that led to the creation of the Yolo Basin Wetlands project.

A principal goal of the Foundation is environmental education in the context of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Now that the restoration of the wildlife area is nearly complete, the Foundation is ready to move forward with its educational mission. We are gearing up to recruit and train a new cadre of volunteers who will serve as docents to provide opportunities for hundreds of students from throughout the region to experience the new wildlife area first hand. The new "Discover the Flyway, program for schools" is slated to begin in



Fall 1997. In addition, a committee is evaluating the planning steps necessary to build a visitor center.

Yolo Basin Foundation continues as the communication link between the many people and organizations involved in creating and managing the Wildlife Area. Educational programs under-way include: sponsoring the fourth annual California Duck Days - a three day waterfowl and wetlands festival in the heart of the Pacific Flyway to be held February 14,-16, 1997; publishing the Yolo Flyway newsletter; bringing wetlands education into the schools with our "Wild About Wetlands" kits; and, introducing people to the natural places in the community through field trips. This year we are offering tours of the wildlife area once a month in partnership with Yolo Audubon Society.

The establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and the work of the Foundation has been widely regarded as a model for planning and completion of other wetland projects. The bypass is a key component of the habitat restoration planned as part of the Cal/Fed Bay Delta Accord process now underway, and is a vital element of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture's habitat restoration goals. The Foundation will be an important local player in implementing these many plans.